When the Table of Betrayal becomes the Table of Salvation

Message 62

Mark Series

7.28.19

Mark 14:12–31 (CSB)

**PREPARATION FOR PASSOVER**

**12**On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrifice the Passover lamb, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare the Passover so that you may eat it?”

**13**So he sent two of his disciples and told them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. **14**Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” ’ **15**He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there.” **16**So the disciples went out, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

**BETRAYAL AT THE PASSOVER**

**17**When evening came, he arrived with the Twelve. **18**While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

***19****They began to be distressed and to say to him one by one, “Surely not I?”*

**20**He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve—the one who is dipping bread in the bowl with me. **21**For the Son of Man will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born.”

**THE FIRST LORD’S SUPPER**

**22**As they were eating, he took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is my body.” **23**Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. **24**He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant,, which is poured out for many. **25**Truly I tell you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new, in the kingdom of God.”

**26**After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**PETER’S DENIAL PREDICTED**

**27**Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will fall away, because it is written:

**I will strike the shepherd,**

**and the sheep** **will be scattered.**,

**28**But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

**29**Peter told him, “Even if everyone falls away, I will not.”

**30**“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to him, “today, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

**31**But he kept insisting, “If I have to die with you, I will never deny you.” And they all said the same thing.

# 1. Go and set the Table.

A. The time had come for Jesus to share a very special meal with His disciples.

1. It was time for the Passover and Jesus was ready to celebrate this great holy day with His people.

2. On this day, hundreds of thousands had gathered to celebrate the deliverance of Israel and the anticipation of future deliverance.

a. Just as God delivered His people out of Egypt following the first Passover in Egypt, so the people anticipated their deliverance from their earthly oppressors at the appearance of the Messiah.

b. The Passover is when all of Israel gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the freedom that only God could bring.

c. Because the Passover could only be celebrated within the walls of Jerusalem, the crowd was huge and so was the sacrifice.

d. For example, the Jewish and Roman historian Josephus claims that in A.D 66, 255,600 lambs were slaughtered in the Temple.

e. The blood flowed like rivers through the streets leading to the Temple.

f. Soon, Jesus’ blood would mix with the blood of lambs in the same city streets.

B. Passover had very specific steps of preparation.

1. While we don’t have time to discuss all of them this morning, a few of them involved:

a. The preparation of bitter herbs and spices to symbolize the bitterness of slavery in Egypt.

b. The sacrificing of a lamb, symbolizing the price of blood paid so that the destroying angel would Passover Israel.

c. There were also cups of wine to drink, cushions to lay on for comfort, and songs and prayers that were repeated at every Passover.

2. Jesus sends two disciples ahead to find a man who has a room for them.

a. Due to supernatural direction, Jesus knew a man carrying a jar would be ready to show these disciples a place furnished just for their purposes.

b. *Some scholars believe that this room could have belonged to Mark’s mother and the man carrying the jar could have been Mark himself, although we can never know for sure.*

c. Also, this upper room could have also been the place where the 120 met on the Day of Pentecost, but again, we may never know for sure.[[1]](#endnote-1)

# 2. While they were at the Table, Jesus revealed that one of them would betray Him.

A. A few hours into the meal, Jesus goes off script.

1. Every Passover meal had a certain pattern and script to be followed.

2. Here, Jesus reveals that one who was eating with Him, someone who had shared life with Him, would betray him.

3. This revelation of betrayal was heart-wrenching.

B. There are two miracles here.

1. The first miracle is the revealed knowledge.

a. Anytime knowledge like this is shared, we know that God is involved.

b. Jesus now reveals, through the Spirit, a piece of knowledge that was hope-shattering to those who heard.

2. The second miracle is that Jesus didn’t call the man out in front of the others.

C. This second miracle is huge!

1. Jesus is celebrating a meal of salvation with these men and doesn’t call Judas out for being the traitor!

2. We would have plastered his name all over the place.

3. And if he “accidently” got hurt in the process, who cared.

4. But not Jesus.

5. Jesus knew that to destroy Judas in front of the others would have been the work of Satan and not the work of God.

a. It is not our calling or ministry to tear down people.

b. If Jesus resisted the temptation to call Judas out in front of others, shouldn’t we be willing to do the same?

D. Not only does Jesus not destroy Judas here, Jesus reveals that He was going to allow His body to be broken for them!

1. I don’t know how Jesus managed to be broken for people that would betray Him?

2. [Psalm 23](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible.19.23) speaks of God preparing a table for David in the presence, in the company, of his enemies.

3. Jesus was literally eating at a table with His enemy.

a. I want to know, *How could Jesus break bread with people who intentionally hurt him?*

b. *How could Jesus offer up himself for their healing and their salvation knowing what they were going to do?*

4. We would have called Judas out.

a. We would have found different disciples or a different church.

b. Most of us would have responded in the complete opposite manner of what Jesus did.

c. But Jesus instead says, “This is my body which is broken for you…”

# 3. Vs. 19. The response of the Disciples was to ask if they were the betrayer.

A. They recognized within themselves the possibility that they were capable of doing this.

1. All of us are capable of great sin.

2. All of us are capable of being used by Satan to accomplish his goals if we do not stay close to Jesus.

3. This is why we all must remain yielded to the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

a. If we do not stay vigilant and watchful, we could be the ones committing a great sin.

b. Without the work of the Holy Spirit and walking with him we are all capable of:

1. An affair and adultery.

2. Intense hatred and murder.

3. Life-controlling addiction and idolatry.

c. The Apostle Paul in Romans 8 and Galatians 5 says a lot about our sinful nature.

1. We are all born with a sinful nature.

2. The sinful nature is always hostile to God and the Spirit.

3. We can be controlled by our sinful nature or by the Spirit of God but not both.

4. There is a battle that rages between the Spirit of God and our sinful nature, so we must constantly crucify our sinful nature.

5. This is something we must do daily not one and done.

B. Question: If Jesus knew Judas would sin ahead of time, why does Jesus say that it would have been better if that man would have never been born?

1. The choice to betray Jesus was a conscious and deliberate choice by Judas.

a. Jesus knew it would happen but he didn’t force him to do it.

b. That explains Jesus’ harsh words.

c. Judas’ choice to sin against Jesus was his choice to make

d. Conscious and deliberate sin always has real consequences.

2. We cannot claim ignorance or compulsion when it comes to our sin.

a. At some level, we are always complicit in our sin.

b. We can’t blame God for making us sin and we can’t expect the Devil to take the fall for us.

c. We are responsible for our sin.

d. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

3. But fear not, for Jesus offered His Body and Blood to pay the price of our sin.

a. It was at the Table of Betrayal that Jesus revealed the Salvation that would forgive all our sins.

b. It was on the night of this Passover that the Table of Betrayal became a Table of Salvation.

# 4. Jesus has the power to redeem what is broken.

A. Shortly after all of this, Jesus breaks the bread and blesses it.

1. The bread (the Body of Christ) was blessed in the midst of betrayal.

a. The bread represents his body which is broken for their salvation.

b. The cup represents a new covenant and NEW RELATIONSHIP.

2. We often think of this new Covenant in terms of only Old Testament/New Testament.

a. But what if it symbolizes our relationship with Jesus?

b. Our old relationships with Jesus and with each other were full of sin, betrayal, and heartache

c. But now, through Jesus, we have the possibility of a new relationship characterized by salvation, blessing and grace.

d. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and when we symbolize that relationship through Communion, we are declaring that our relationship with God and with each other will never be the same!

3. The Passover and, later, Communion, were never permitted to be done alone.

a. If a Jewish family did not have 10 people to share a whole Passover lamb, they were to join with another family.

b. The early Church always met and ate the Lord’s Supper in Community, with other people.

c. Could it be that we don’t celebrate Jesus’ sacrifice and salvation alone because the Broken Bread and the Cup were first shared in the midst of sinful people prepared to do sinful things?

d. The Bread and the Cup reminds us of our propensity to sin and our need of a Savior!

B. In one way or another, all of the men there that night betrayed Jesus except John.

1. But it was Peter who resolutely stated, “I will never betray you.”

a. I can hear it now.

b. “Not only will I not betray you, I can’t betray you!”

c. “I’m too strong to sin, I’m too committed to fall away, I’m too good to allow the enemy an opportunity to use me to hurt you.”

d. Jesus responded that not only will you fail me once, you will fail me 3 times before the rooster crows twice.

2. It might be Judas who symbolizes betrayal, but it is Peter who reminds us that sin affects us all.

a. We all are in need of a Savior.

b. We all need Jesus to change us.

c. We all need redemption and grace and mercy.

d. We all must stay humble, as we remember that we too have sinned against God and have betrayed Him.

# 5. God wants to turn your Table of Betrayal into a Table of Salvation.

A. Some of us here today haven’t been living for Jesus the way we should.

1. We have allowed various and different things to creep in and the voice of the enemy is telling you that you have gone too far.

2. The enemy of your soul wants you to quit and walk-away.

a. Walk away from your family.

b. Walk away from your church.

c. Walk away from your God.

3. I want to plead with you to not quit.

B. Because, today, we don’t remember the Lord’s Supper for what Judas did but for what Jesus did.

1. Don’t walk away from Jesus because of the Judas’ in your life.

2. There will always be sinful people in this world.

3. There will always be people who commit great sins and do so in the name of God or religion.

C. We don’t need a great revelation of Judas, we need a great revelation of Jesus.

1. When our focus is upon Jesus, He causes tables of betrayal to become tables of salvation.

2. This morning, I want to ask us to look toward Jesus today.

# Closing:

A. Maybe there is someone here today who need to get things right with God.

1. If so, here in just a moment I’m going to ask you to come and pray with a deacon or pastor.

2. Today is the day for you to experience the forgiveness of God that only He can give.

B. Maybe you are being really hard on your self.

1. You know you aren’t doing and being like you should.

2. But instead of drawing closer to Jesus, you are thinking that it would just be better to quit and walk away.

3. PLEASE DON’T.

4. Take time this morning to share with Jesus your fears and concerns, and He will be faithful and just to forgive and restore you.

C. Lastly, for those of you who maybe struggling with a relationship.

1. Someone has hurt you deeply, and you are hurt, angry, bitter, or gun-shy.

2. Let me ask you to take this time to do two things:

a. Bring that hurt, anger, bitterness, or disappointment to the Lord.

b. Once you are confident with that, take it to the person.

c. Don’t walk up to someone and say, “I forgive you”.

1. That is arrogant and confusing.

2. Instead, confess that you have been feeling hurt, or angry, and that you desire to not feel that way anymore.

3. Maybe you need to apologize to someone and ask for their forgiveness.

3. Jesus found a way to bless those who hurt Him, we must do the same.

a. IF someone has hurt you, find a way to bless them.

b. It may be a prayer, or it may be an anonymous act of kindness, or a heartfelt conversation.

c. Let us strive to be like Jesus not Judas.

1. Edwards, James R. *The Gospel according to Mark*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos, 2002. Pg 421 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)