

SERIES: 'CONNECT WITH GOD' - (#3) — 4/13/25 PASTOR LEE

- **ITS PALM SUNDAY!** They shouted “Hosanna”! (save us now!) and “Son of David” (Messiah) They didn’t fully grasp what was going on...their state of mind was ‘ok...fix it for us right now; let’s get Your Kingdom going here and now’! But He had a different plan that even the disciples struggled to grasp. Juxtaposition: while the people (encouraged by the witnessing of miracles, eg. Lazarus) were confusingly, but joyously thinking about immediate relief and a new Kingdom....Jesus is talking about suffering, dying and rising again.
- So simultaneously, the mass of people saw the advent of a natural, worldly king; while some fraction, (primarily) religious leaders, given that He could raise people from the dead, saw Him as God; another, presumably larger set of religious leaders saw Jesus as a problem and planned for his demise.
- ChristFirst Church will observe Good Friday, 6 pm-8:00 pm with prayer, worship, reflection. All are invited!
- Jesus instructed his disciples to prepare for Passover (a ‘national holiday’ prescribed by God for the Hebrews)...in remembrance of the original/historical “passover” of their children in Egypt. Coming into it (the ‘Upper Room’), the disciples were unaware that this celebratory and holy dinner together would be ‘The Last Supper’.....an gigantic, iconic moment recognized almost universally (not just ‘Believers’) around the world!
- And now— this morning- - Jesus, incredibly, invites US to the same table (‘The Lord’s Table’)!!! Jesus created this visual and passes it on to us (saints)....a solemn moment of remembrance repeated for 2,000 thousand years!

Luke 22:14-14-21- - And when the hour came, He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. (15) And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. (16) For I tell you I will not eat it (a) until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.” (17) And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said, “Take this and divide it amongst yourselves. (18) For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes.” (19) And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (20) And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for yours the new covenant in my blood.” (21) But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table.”

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- He looked forward to this meal and *knew* He was about to suffer!
 - Connecting to this, see Exodus 12:13 below....the ‘blood of the lamb’.....that ritual sacrifice would be forever be replaced, upon Jesus’ crucifixion, with His blood....the “Lamb of God”!. Analogous, just as the blood on/above the door frames of the ancient Hebrews slaves in Egypt would be a sign that God would ‘pass over’ them, Jesus’ blood would provide for the ‘passing over’ of the righteous penalty we....as slaves to sin.... deserve.

Exodus 12:13- - The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

- These ancient Hebrews displayed faith in following God's warning/instructions. **FAITH IS ALL ABOUT BELIEVING WHAT GOD HAS SAID** (even if it doesn't make sense 'in the natural'). Following this event, God told the Hebrews to commemorate what He had done for them- in saving their first born sons- - each year following....called the "Passover"!
- So, at this Last Supper on Thursday evening, Jesus refrains this generational celebration....the blood (cup) , that forgives sin. The bread represents Jesus body that was broken. Jesus' words and gestures must have been flabbergasting to the apostles- -we, today, have the advantage of the Word and the ability to know it all retrospectively. (On the 'flip-side', the Apostles had a much better grasp on the long-standing traditions/meanings surrounding Passover.)
- Just as the Apostles, then, remembered Passover, we, in receiving Communion, will remember Jesus.
- Remember, looking at Eph 2:8-9 (you are saved by God's Grace through faith...not of yourselves)..... only in Jesus, can salvation happen....by His death on the Cross. Communion represents a solemn remembrance of Jesus and what He sacrificed for us. It is done in common union with each other....it is *not the (mystical) means of salvation*.
- John1:1 tells us that Jesus took on flesh...became man....and lived amongst us. John testifies to seeing His glory...full of grace and truth. We need that grace!....as born sinners! That original sin (and our choice to sin) separates us from God. We long to re-connect.....which we can through His "New Covenant" (V-20)...this Cup represents a new 'agreement' with God! Through Jesus and His sacrifice on our behalves, that re-connection and justification is available.

2 Cor 5:21- - For our sake, He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

- This is otherwise known as the "GREAT EXCHANGE".....He takes on our sins and gives us His righteousness!!!! God's just price for our sins is death.....and Jesus takes this on and pays the penalty in substitution for us....if you trust Him!!!!
- We do not make enough of all Communion represents! Let's make this Remembrance so much more front-of-mind'!!!

_ Pastor Lee leads Church in Communion.....and urges that it be partaken in the manner of which it is worthy.

****SIN AND DEATH ARE CONQUERED BY JESUS CHRIST****

****THROUGH HIM, WE CAN HAVE LIFE ETERNAL****

