

The Heights Baptist Church

* Christmas at Luke's * Celebrating Communion * Luke 22:14-34 * 11/28/2021 *

MAIN POINT: During the Christmas season, we often picture Jesus as a baby in the manger. Let us not lose sight of the reason he came to earth as a little baby in Bethlehem.

INTRODUCTION

During the Christmas season, there are many things that add to our Christmas experience, and many things that can distract us from the true meaning of Christmas.

There are many Christmas carols and movies that are played only during the Christmas season. What is your favorite or least favorite Christmas carol or movie, and why?

What tends to be the description of “the true meaning of Christmas” as presented by the secular Christmas shows or songs?

During the Christmas season, we often picture Jesus as a baby in the manger. During this study, we will be reminding ourselves of one of the main reasons Christ came to earth as a little baby in Bethlehem.

UNDERSTANDING

Note to study leader. There is amazing symbolism included in the Lord's supper. Look ahead through this lesson and tailor it to the level of maturity that you have in your group. New believers would do well just to grasp the beautiful picture of Jesus as our Passover lamb. Make sure not to overwhelm them with too many details or cross references.

Have a volunteer read Luke 22:14-20.

Verse 15 tells us that “the Lord's Supper” was actually a celebration of the Passover meal by Jesus and his disciples. How is the Passover celebration symbolic of what Christ was going to accomplish on the cross?

At Passover (Exodus 12:3-13), an innocent lamb was sacrificed, and its blood applied to the doorframes of the Jewish homes. When the angel of death came to kill the firstborn of Egypt, and he saw the blood, he passed over that house. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said “Look, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). What an amazing picture of what Jesus has done for us!

Jesus took the unleavened bread at the Passover meal and broke it, saying, “This is my body given for you.” When he took the cup, he said “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” He is revealing a previously hidden meaning about the Passover meal.

Looking at the following verses, what symbolism do you see in the last supper?

- Exodus 12:5 and 15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; and 1 Peter 1:18-19. The lamb was to be without defect, and the bread was to be made without yeast. Christ became a man and lived a sinless life, making him the perfect sacrifice in our place.
- John 6:49-51. Jesus is the bread from heaven. He sustains us spiritually, just as the manna from heaven sustained Israel physically while they were in the desert.
- John 6:53, John 11:25, Ephesians 2:1 and Leviticus 17:11. We were dead in our sins. Jesus supplies our spiritual life.
- Hebrews 9:22, 28; and Hebrews 10:3, 4, and 14. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.

Have a volunteer read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.

As disciples of Christ, why is it important for us to partake in communion?

- Because Christ tells us to do this.
- To proclaim the Lord's death until he comes, remembering what Christ has done for us.
- To examine ourselves (reflecting on whether we are walking in obedience to Christ).

APPLICATION

Have a volunteer read Luke 22:21-34.

As Christ shared this intimate time with his disciples, it is clear they were not fully grasping the significance of what they were partaking in. Looking at verses 24-26, what was their natural focus on, and what did Jesus tell them their attitude needed to be as one of his disciples?

What did Jesus tell them that Judas would do (verse 21)? How about Peter (verse 34)?

After these events took place, Judas was "seized with remorse" (Matthew 27:4-5) and Peter "wept bitterly" (Luke 22:62). This was followed by Judas hanging himself, while Peter ran to the empty tomb, and later jumped out of his boat to get to Jesus (John 21). Looking at 2 Corinthians 7:10, what might be the main reason their responses were so different?

How can we apply these lessons to our life?

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for His wisdom and plan. Praise Him that He made a way back to him for us, through the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ. Ask God to give us the grace to choose to put our faith in him, and focus on what he's done for us this Christmas season.

COMMENTARY

22:14 The Passover meal began at sundown. Participants reclined on their sides on low couches, leaning over the low table to eat.

22:15-18 By saying that He fervently desired to eat this Passover with His disciples before suffering, Jesus encouraged them to interpret the following events in light of Passover imagery.

22:19 To institute a new memorial meal (the Lord's Supper), Jesus chose the unleavened bread of the Passover meal to represent His physical body, which would be broken on the cross much as bread was broken during the meal. His death would be offered (given for you) as a substitute for sinners, all of whom deserve to die for their sins.

22:19 The bread eaten at the Passover meal was made without leavening. Leaven in the Bible often represents impurity that spreads (Matt. 16:6; 1 Cor. 5:6-7; Gal. 5:7-9).

22:20 The new memorial meal also provided a fresh meaning to the cup after supper. The cup was reinterpreted to refer to the blood of Christ, shed as a payment for sins by Jesus, the ultimate Lamb of God (John 1:29). The mention of the new covenant related to Christ's shed blood means that the prophesied new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34) would be ratified by Jesus' death on the cross.

22:21-23 Judas was guilty as the one betraying Jesus (vv. 3-6), yet it remains the case that his actions were determined (planned, ordained) by God as part of the plan that would culminate in Jesus' crucifixion (Ac 2:23).

22:21-23 "Woe to that man by whom he is betrayed. Note, Neither the patience of the saints under their sufferings, nor the counsel of God concerning their sufferings, will be any excuse for those that have any hand in their sufferings, or that persecute them. Though God has determined that Christ shall be betrayed and he himself has cheerfully submitted to it, yet Judas's sin or punishment is not at all the less." Matthew Henry's commentary on Luke

22:23-24 Luke is tenacious and honest about the immaturity of the disciples. After so great a spiritual experience as the Passover meal, conducted by the Lord Himself, they argued over who was greatest among them. The chronology of events listed in the four gospels is not perfectly clear, but it appears this argument about who's the greatest occurred after Jesus had washed their feet as an example of how to serve each other in John 13. We see here a clear demonstration that it was for their good that Jesus would leave this world, in order that the needed Holy Spirit would be poured out on the Church at Pentecost (John 16:7).