

March 19, 2017

The Meaning of Communion: More than a Memory

Mark 14:12-25

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Message Theme: The Passover was a celebration and remembrance for the Hebrews that God delivered them from the slavery and persecution of the Egyptians and their Pharaoh. When do you think the disciples realized this one was going to be more than a memory?

1. Even with the preparations, they would have had time away from the people-facing ministry to reflect on how this Passover might be different from other Passovers. How might it be different? What might be the same?
2. Do you believe those disciples, like so many of the people gathered in Jerusalem, thought that Jesus might deliver the Jewish people from Roman oppression in similar fashion to the way He had delivered them from Egyptian slavery? Wouldn't Passover be an "appropriate" time for God to do a miracle?
3. The Jesus Storybook Bible relates part of the Last Supper with a story about our "Servant King." It shares how Jesus washed the disciples "stinky feet" at the beginning of the Passover (John 13). Of course, we know "stinky" meant covered with droppings from whatever animal happened to be passing by. Jesus made the point, in verse 15 - "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

4. Are you willing to literally and figuratively wash the feet of everyone in your group? Would you let them wash yours?
5. How willing are you to receive blessings from others?
6. Are you familiar with the spiritual, financial and emotional needs of the people in your group?
7. Jesus changed Passover for all his followers; the Jewish believers. Never again could they practice Passover without remembering that Jesus had forever related his body to the bread and his blood to the wine. When you practice communion in remembrance of Jesus, what does it mean to you when you take the bread?
8. Similarly, when you consume the wine (or grape juice) symbolic of Jesus' blood, what connection do you have to your Savior?
9. Finally, describe how each of your five senses is engaged when you practice communion. Discuss the significance of this blessing.