A Meal Fit for a King
(Mark 14:17-25)
(preached 12/6/15; Sunday AM)

Introduction

If you take a look at the lower left corner of the screen, you will find a mint green 1971 Chevrolet truck…

My dad owned and drove a truck just like this from the time I was in 5th grade until I was in 10th grade.

The picture you see is not my dad's truck; it is much too nice for that.

My dad's truck had a few minor issues…

A rusty floorboard that allowed me as a kid to see the highway pass under us as we drove…

A paint job with a few problems…

But my favorite was the hard to open passenger door…

So any time we pulled up at a place, I would have to pull up on the handle and at the same time, throw my should into the window to break the door free.

Now, growing older does wonders for us as people.

Today, I would love to own that truck.

I have come to undersigned why my dad loved that truck..

But as a kid and teenager, it was hard for me to love that truck.

Can you imagine pulling up to the school and having to break out of the truck in front of all your friends?

It was not a pretty site, but the day came when my dad decided to buy a new truck…

And so, we went to Greenville to the Ford dealership there and my dad purchased a brand new 1989 Ford F-150 with a navy blue and beige paint scheme.

It was the most beautiful truck I had ever seen.

Power windows, power locks, a digital radio, and best of all a passenger door that opened and closed with ease.

It was a great day…

The salesman gave us the keys to that new truck and we drove it home…

The old was gone and the new had come…

Now, Dad kept the green truck, and we still used it, but that day of getting a new truck was so important that I still remember all those details of that day…

With that in mind, we come to Mark 14:17-25 today, and it is one of those passages in the Bible that changes everything…

This passage is a passage where the Old is traded in for the New.

And though we have read this time and time again, I can state enough how important this passage is in the history of the world….

And in the history of God's working in the world…

Because today we come to the scene where Jesus changes the Passover meal into the Lord's Supper.

And the great blessing for us today is that we get to read about the first Lord's Supper and then we also get to take part in the Lord's Supper before we depart…

Now, to get our minds in gear about this extraordinary transition from the Passover to the Lord's Supper, we need to set the stage…

So, let's begin this morning by turning to the book of Exodus….

I want us to look at Exodus 11 for just a minute to begin our morning…

The opening chapters of the book of Exodus describe the very early days of the nation of Israel.

God had chosen Abraham in the book of Genesis to be the father of a great nation of people…

And the book of Genesis talks about how the nation slowly grew in number…

As the book of Genesis ends, a group of 70 people who are all descendants of Abraham make their way to Egypt.

And when the book of Exodus opens, this group of 70 people explodes into a nation of over million people…

Well, Egypt sees this group of millions of Jews as a threat and they enslave them in the opening chapters of Exodus.

Well, God raises up Moses and gives him the task of leading Israel out of Egypt…

And beginning in Exodus 7, Moses goes to the Egyptian Pharaoh and asks for Israel to freed from Egypt.

Pharaoh refuses, and God begins to send plagues upon the land to convince Pharaoh to change his mind..

Plague after plague came upon Egypt…locusts, boils, frogs, darkness…

Nothing had convinced Pharaoh to let Israel go and that brings us to Exodus 11…

Verse 1…

11 Now the Lord said to Moses, "One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out from here completely.

Now skip down to verse 4…

4 Moses said, "Thus says the Lord, 'About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt, 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the firstborn of the cattle as well

And so the final plague to hit Egypt will be the the death of all the firstborn children in the land of Egypt…

This presents a problem because Israel lives in the land of Egypt…

Though they aren't Egyptian, they share the land with the Egyptians and live among them…

So, this death of the firstborn would also strike them as well…

However, God had a solution to the problem…

We find that solution in Exodus 12…

12 Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of [a]Egypt, 2 "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a [b]lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a [c]lamb for [d]each household. 4 Now if the household is too small for a [e]lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the [f]number of persons in them; according to [g]what each man should eat, you are to [h]divide the lamb. 5 Your [i]lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from

the sheep or from the goats. 6 [j]You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it [k]at twilight. 7 Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel [l]of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread [m]and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails. 10 And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. 11 Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord's Passover. 12 For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you [n]live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you [o]to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

The solution that would keep the first born children of Israel alive was this…

Take a lamb that was perfect.

Kill it and spread the blood of that lamb over your door.

When the Lord sends death throughout the land of Egypt, the blood over the door will cause Him to "Pass Over" that house and spare the firstborn child.

And the end of the story is that God did just as he said..

Death came to all the firstborn in the land of Egypt as a final plague…

But no death came to any family who had the blood over their door…

After that plague, Pharaoh made Israel leave Egypt…

He would eventually decide to chase them down, but die when the Red Sea collapsed on top of him and his army..

However, God never wanted Israel to forget what HE had done for them by sparing their firstborn children from death.

So, he commanded Israel to observe the Passover every year to remember his protection of them…

The Passover most likely occurred in 1445 BC, and every year since that first Passover, Jews would gather and eat a Passover supper to remember the Lord's goodness to them in Egypt..

Every year, they would kill a lamb just like that generation in Egypt did, and they would eat a meal that pointed to God's goodness in sparing them the death that came to the land of Egypt.

This became known as the Passover meal among the Jews…

And it occurred in 1444 BC and 1443 and so on and so on until even the time of Christ…

Growing up Jewish, Jesus would have taken part in Passover ever since he was an infant…

Joseph and Mary would gather with family and they would observe what God has commanded them to observe in the Passover meal…

And when Jesus became an adult, he would have taken part in Passover meals…

Even in his ministry with the disciples, he would have taken part in Passover meals…

They had been commanded by God and Jesus was perfectly obedient to God so he was careful to keep all the commands of God.

If you take your Bibles and turn back to Mark with me…

If you look at Mark 14:12, which we covered last week, notice the question of the disciples…

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples *said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

The question is not "Do you want to observe the Passover?"

Rather, it is where do you want to observe the Passover..

The disciples knew that Jesus would take part in the Passover meal..

It wasn't optional for Him.

He was obedient to the point of death in all things…

So, they made preparation for the Passover…

Now, as we have been in the last week of Jesus' life for some time now…

Remember, the Passover is approaching…

Jews would be making their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover..

Some would bring their own lamb to sacrifice and then eat…

Some would purchase a lamb at the temple to be sacrificed and then eaten at their meal…

And the sequence of the Passover meal was very clear….

Get your lamb early in the week, then kill in on the morning of Passover and then eat it after sunset at the Passover meal…

Now, this presented a problem for Jesus.

He knew that he was set to die as the ultimate Passover lamb on the cross on Friday afternoon.

But he needed to observe the Passover meal with his disciples for a final time..

For one thing, He had more to teach them in His final hours on earth…

But second, he needed to end the Passover supper and change it in to His Supper, which is what we call the Lord's Supper.

That is why this night was so important.

The focus of all of history would change this night…

Yes, God had been good to Israel to deliver them from death in Egypt through the blood of a lamb…

But the greater truth is that Jesus had come to deliver sinners from death through the shedding of His blood….

Sacrificed lambs to remember the past are good…

A Sacrificed Savior to deliver people from the death sentence of sin is so much better…

The time had come for the little lambs to go and for the Lamb of God to come..

You see….

All those past Passover meals were just a preview of a greater truth…

All of that blood of those little lambs were just a picture of the blood of the Lamb that was coming to shed his blood…

Here is what the Jews had known all their lives…

They had been given God's law and all it did was point out how sinful they were as a people…

And God had overlooked their sin as long as they brought sacrifices to him…

Bulls, goats, lambs, birds were all sacrificed to as a way to point to he necessity of blood and death to satisfy sin…

None of those sacrifices actually forgave sin…

It was simply covered by the sacrificial system…

All of those sacrifices wherein attempt by God to cause Israel to look to a sacrifice that would forgive sin for all time…

And that sacrifice was going to be the death of His own Son.

The true Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world…

Let me it this way….

Since it is Christmas, let me use what some of you can remember which was the Sears Wish book..

It was simply a book full of pictures of toys where kids could flip page after page and figure out what they wanted for Christmas.

In 1983, I wanted an electronic football game.

I found it in the Sears Wish book.

I cut out the picture. I tacked it to my bedroom wall and I waited until Christmas.

And I remember getting that game, taking it to my bedroom wall, comparing it to the picture, and then taking down the picture.

I didn't need the picture anymore.

I had the real thing.

The picture was just a shadow of what was to come…

The Old Covenant.

The system of trying to obey God's laws and failing and having to offer sacrifices to satisfy sin was a shadow of what was to come…

On this night, even though the city was probably field with millions of lambs, there was only One Lamb that mattered…

And that was the Lamb of God who getting ready to be killed as the true Passover Lamb of all time…

Now, all of that is just an introduction to the verses that we will look at today…

And don't worry, this won't be long…

Most of these verses are very familiar to you and require little explanation…

Now, before to this glorious meal, let us look at the ugliness of this night in verses 17-21..

Which I have described as…

I. An Appetizer of Evil Intentions (17-21)

Let me read this verses to you….

Mark 14:17..

17 When it was evening He *came with the twelve.

Let me stop right there for a minute…

If you haven't been with us, we are in the final days of the Lord Jesus Christ's life…

This is Thursday evening of the final week of His life…

He spent all of Wednesday teaching in the temple and taking on the religious leaders who were trying to destroy him…

Then late Wednesday evening, he left the temple and sat down on the Mount of Olives and taught His disciples about the events that would lead up to His Second Coming.

Wednesday became Thursday in Mark 14:12, and since Passover was approaching, the disciples made preparations to celebrate the Passover meal that night.

This would include selecting a lamb, having it killed and then preparing the meat to be eaten Thursday night after sunset…

And as we arrive at verse 17, it is Thursday night, and Jesus is sitting down in a house in Jerusalem ready to enjoy the Passover with his disciples..

But before they can get to the meal, which his going to actually be the last Passover and the first Lord's Supper, Jesus has to deal with Judas…

And so they are reclining at the table…

This was typical at Jewish meals…

Your head was most likely be propped up by your hand and your feet would face away from the table..

And so Jesus is sitting there with these 12 men, and we come to verse 18…

18 As they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will [e]betray Me—[f]one who is eating with Me."
19 They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?" 20 And He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, [g]one who dips with Me in the bowl. 21 For the Son of Man is to go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man [h]by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have

been good [i]for that man if he had not been born."

Contrary to what you may think, these words of Jesus shock the disciples…

If you read Matthew, Mark, and John's gospel, it is clear that no one first of all suspects a traitor among them…

And on top of that, no one suspects it to be Judas…

Now, none of the disciples know how Jesus' arrest is going to play out except Judas…

Though they know that Jesus has told them over and over that he would be killed, they aren't aware of how it will all happen…

But here in this moment, they get a piece of the puzzle..

One of them is going to betray Jesus and hand him over.

They may not even know who Jesus will be handed over to, but they now know that one of them is going to be a traitor of Jesus…

And it shocks them to the point of extreme grief..

You can see that in verse 19…

Then Jesus gives this incredible statement in verse 21…

It would have been better for the betrayer to have never been born than to betray Jesus Christ…

And though Judas is in torment today for his betrayal of Christ, this statement holds true for anyone who rejects Jesus Christ…

It would have been better for you to have never been born than for you to reject Christ…

Those are shocking words, but those are the words of our Lord…

And though Mark doesn't tell us, it is best to assume that Judas left the room at this point…

If you read the other gospel writers, it is hard to place all the events of this night in the right order, but it seems best to see Judas already gone before the first Lord's Supper is held..

And so in this MEAL FIT FOR A KING, that is the APPETIZER OF EVIL INTENTIONS….

Let us leave that and move to verses 22 -25, in which I have entitled…

II. A Main Course of New Covenant Blessing (22-25)

Let's read verses 22-25…

22 While they were eating, He took some bread, and [j]after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is My body." 23 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

The passover meal consisted of a number of parts..

There was the ceremonial washing of hands..

The drinking of 3 cups of wine…

The eating of bitter herbs..

The eating of the lamb….

Somewhere toward the end of the meal is where we find the actions of verses 22-25…

Where Jesus simply takes some bread and gives it to his disciples and tells them that it symbolizes his body…

A body that will be whipped over and over in a few hours….

A body that will be spit upon…

A body that will be beaten and bruised…

And a body that will ultimately be hung upon a cross and die a painful death…

They were eating a lamb, which symbolized the lambs that had been killed in Egypt and given them salvation from death…

Jesus moves from the bodies of those lambs to his own body which will be sacrificed to provide salvation to all who will believe in Him…

And the bread that we will eat in a few moments is like the bread that Jesus broke that night…

It is symbolic of Jesus' body that was broken and bruised for us..

The bread on that night was not his body…

All the disciples would have understood that…

And we all should undersigned that today…

Nothing special in the bread that we buy for Lord's Supper; the significance of the bread is that it points our minds to the body of our Savior and Lord…

After the bread had been eaten, Jesus took a cup of wine which like the bread was symbolic of His blood that would be poured on in just a few hours…

It was not Christ's blood on that night, and it is not Christ's blood that we drink today..

The juice that we will drink today is simply a symbol of Jesus' blood…

And remember the importance of the blood on the night of the Passover in Egypt?

You needed it on your door if you wanted to avoid death…

And you want to know the importance of Jesus' blood today?

You need it to cover your sins if you want to avoid eternal death today..

Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin.

God had been teaching that to Israel for centuries…

The Old Covenant said that if you sinned, you had to sacrifice the life of an animal to cover your sin…

And God had used that agreement, that covenant, with Israel to etch in their minds and hearts that sin could only be paid for by the blood and death of a substitute…

The Old Covenant was meant to make Israel understand that sin was serious and could only be paid for though sacrifice..

And on this night in that room when Jesus lifted up that cup and the disciples drank it was the last Passover and the first Lord's Supper…

Because in less than 24 hours, Jesus would offer his own body and his own blood to pay for the sins of all who would believe in Him for all time…

The New Covenant came in that night in that room in Jerusalem…

The Old Covenant was gone and a New Covenant had come…

Do you know what God's new agreement with His people is?

It is not to bring an animal to kill every year to pay for you sins…

That is why none of you brought a lamb to church this morning…

We don't need look to lambs and bulls and sheep to pay for our sin, we look to the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross to pay for our sin…

Think about it this way….

All the people before the cross sacrificed and sacrificed all as a way to look forward to the day when God would provide a perfect sacrifice for sin…

And everyone after the cross looks back upon the perfect sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross…

That is why the cross is the center of all of human history…

Sin was dealt with at the cross once for all..

And guess what we do when we celebrate the Lord's Supper…

We look back to the cross…

We look back to the Lord's body that was beaten and bruised to pay for sin..

We look back to the the Lord's blood that was poured out to pay for our sin…

The Lord's Supper is not about us…

The Lord's Supper is about him and His perfect sacrifice to pay for our sin….

Let me say this as we prepare our hearts for our celebration of the Lord's Supper…

And I go back to our theme from last Sunday…

There are but two kinds of people in this world…

And there are but two kinds of people sitting in this metal building today…

You either have had your sins paid for by repenting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ….

Or you have sins that are unpaid and are awaiting payment that will come through the punishment of your own body and the shedding of your own blood.

There is no 3rd category of people..

You either have a huge bill for your sin to pay…

Or it was paid by Christ…

Today can be the day where you settle your account..

Today can be the day where your bill gets paid in full..

Today can be the day when your sins move form your shoulders to the shoulders of Jesus Christ…

Today is the day to turn from sin and turn in faith and repentance to Jesus Christ.

Today is the day to take part in the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner…

Where you can eat the bread and drink the cup and truly be thankful for our Passover Lamb who died in our place to pay for our sin..

Let us pray.

As the men come forward, you will notice that I did not comment on verse 25, where Jesus said,

"***Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."***

IF you want to find out what that means, you need to come tonight at 6 PM where will discuss this very kingdom that Jesus was talking about…

I will remind you as I always do that the celebration of the Lord's Supper is not open to everyone…

If you are an unbeliever and unsaved, please do not take part in this celebration of the Lord's Supper…

The Bible says that you drink judgment upon yourself if you take part in this in an unworthy manner…

I would also remind any believer in her who is living in a lifestyle of sin to not take part in the Lord's Supper…

This is not a call to perfection; every Christian sins.

But if your life is characterized by sin that you know is wrong but you still refuse to repent and turn form it, the Bible would advise you not to take part in the Lord's Supper…

Some people who were living in sin and taking part in the Lord's Supper got sick in the early church and some died..

However, I must also say that true repentance…

Whether you are a Christian and need to repent of known sin…

Or whether you are an unbeliever and need to repent for the first time is available now..

Repentance begins in your heart and shows up in your life…

And there is opportunity even now to repent as we prepare to pass out the bread and the cup…

If you need to repent, there is no better time than doing it in the quietness of your heart right now…

Let me pray one more time before we pass out the elements of the Lord's Supper..