

THE PASSOVER WINE – ITS LESSONS

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Just over one week until Passover ... Sunday April 9.

Last week we had an overview of Passover and also a reminder of the need for self-examination.

Passover is a very important and sober evening ... picturing the death of Our Lord and Saviour. We don't want to just "turn up" ... carnal and ill-prepared.

There are two key symbols to the Passover ... the Blood and The Body of The Lamb ... The Wine and The Bread.

Today we are going to have an in depth look at the wine ... The Blood of The Lamb ... a matter of life and death.

Exodus 12:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 **"This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.**

3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: **"On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.**

4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

5 **Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.** *(Picturing The Lord Jesus Christ)* **You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.**

6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. *(Hebrew: Between the two evenings)*

7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

Exodus 12:12-13 (NKJV)

12 "For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

13 *Now 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; (this is the domestic Passover ... kept in your own home)* and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

The Blood of The Lamb is a matter of life and death.

Exodus 12:21-23 (NKJV)

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.

22 And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. *(Daybreak)*

23 For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, *the Lord will pass over the door* and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

The blood is literally a matter of life and death. These firstborn couldn't save themselves. No amount of effort or "works" could save them. No matter how bad they had been ... the blood delivers!

Matthew 26:17-20 (NKJV)

17 Now on the first day of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "**Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?**" *(NB: JESUS KEPT THE PASSOVER!!)*

18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; **I will keep the Passover** at your house with My disciples." ' " *(Pretty plain)*

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. *(To do what? To eat the Passover!)*

Matthew 26:26-28 (NKJV)

26 And as they were eating, *(The Passover)* Jesus took **bread**, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." *(Jesus is The Passover)*

27 Then He took the cup, **(red wine)** and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

28 **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** *(The Wine = the Blood of The New Covenant = remission of sins ... or forgiveness)*

These next verses came from Jesus to Paul ... directly!! (Not via Peter or any other disciple). Here he tells us how to keep the Passover correctly.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 (NKJV)

23 **For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;**

24 and when He had given thanks, **He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

25 In the same manner **He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."** *(As a memorial ... annually)*

26 **For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.** *(A very sober evening ... picturing the death of Christ ... who stepped into our shoes ... and took our place)*

27 **Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

28 **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.** *(Before we get there ... we need to be reflecting on ourselves)*

29 **For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.**

30 **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.** *(Prematurely dead)*

31 **For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.** *(We have to do this ... personally. Take the initiative!)*

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

1 Corinthians 11:28 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

All of us need to make this personal. Not just an academic doctrine ... answering a question in a religious education test paper. The blood of the original Passover was life and death. The same today ... if we're not under the Blood of The Lamb ... then we will face the Lake of Fire and eternal death.

Jesus made it plain. We MUST TAKE HIS BLOOD (AND BODY).

John 6:48-58 (NKJV)

48 **I am the bread of life.** (There are 7 "I am" statements in the book of John ... 1) Bread 2) Light of the World 3) Gate 4) Good Shepherd 5) Resurrection and the Life 6) the Way, Truth and the Life 7) the True Vine)

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 **This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.**

51 **I am the living bread** which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and **the bread that I shall give is My flesh,** which I shall give for the life of the world."

52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.**

54 **Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life,** and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 **He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.**

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

58 **This is the bread which came down from heaven**—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. **He who eats this bread will live forever."**

Symbolically on the Passover ... we do eat Jesus body ... we do drink His blood. We have to make Jesus "part of us". It's no use just

looking at Jesus and knowing about Jesus ... that may be a start... but we have to symbolically "consume Jesus" ... that's what He's on about in these verses. That's worth thinking on. Very important.

The scripture is plain. Without the Blood of Jesus ... we are dead.

Romans 3:21-23 (NKJV)

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;
23 for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

All of us have sinned.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

23 For ***the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** (*The shed blood of The Lamb of God is to wash away those sins*)

And the wages of sin is death. Death means complete annihilation for ever. Speaking of the 2nd death. No more life ... no more skies ... trees ... birds ... sunsets ... no more fellowship ... never hear any more laughter ... no more achievements ... no more rewards Nothing. Death.

1st death = sleep (awake in a resurrection)

2nd death = annihilation

There is nothing you or I can do ourselves to change that ... of ourselves.

We've sinned. And a Righteous Judge must judge us. There is only one way out ... the blood of The Lamb. A Passover.

Romans 5:6-11 (NKJV)

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

9 Much more then, **having now been justified** (*just as if I had never sinned ... no sin ... no death ... we've been Passed Over*) **by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.** (*Jesus died for us ... so we have been reconciled to The Father*)

10 **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

God values the blood of His Son. No matter about our past ... when He sees the Blood. We are justified ... He checks our history ... our record ... it is clean ... no trace of any sin. Satan comes accusing ... but there is nothing there.

Since there is no sin ... justified ... reconciled ... no death. We are Passed Over.

What part did we play? Believe!

Annually ... on the night ... we pause and remember (like 11th hour of the 11th day on the 11th month ... a 2 minute silence). We are reminded every year of the importance of Jesus' shed blood.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

13 ***He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed (transferred) us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,***
14 ***in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.***

Colossians 1:19-23 (NKJV)

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,
20 and ***by Him to reconcile all things to Himself,*** by Him,
whether things on earth or things in heaven, ***having made peace through the blood of His cross.*** *(All of that brought about by The Blood of The Lamb)*

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet ***now He has reconciled***
22 ***in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless,*** and above reproach in His sight—

23 (with the caveat) ***if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.***

God sees us Holy ... blameless ... irreproachable. We didn't do this! God put this in place. Don't forget ... nor be ungrateful ... or be casual. We need to value that.

1 Peter 1:13-21 (NKJV)

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and ***rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;***

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 ***but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,***

16 because it is written, "***Be holy, for I am holy.***"

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 **but with *the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*** (*This is how we are redeemed*)

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

We can't do enough good things to be saved. We can't do enough good things to "get through". What redeemed you and redeemed me ... was the precious blood of a spotless Lamb ... which is priceless and can't be purchased.

Revelation 1:4-6 (NKJV)

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in

His own blood, (*washed = bathed ... because we have been stained by our sins. But ... now we have become perfectly clean*)

6 **and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.** (*We get the benefits. It's called Mercy and Kindness*)

Hebrews 9:11-15 (NKJV)

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (*set free*)

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, *cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* (CEV "makes our consciences clear")

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Cleanse our minds ... our conscience ... not conscious of our old man ... sins ... errors ... disappointments ... lifetime of regrets ... letting God down. But our sins washed away ... clear ... a clean conscience ... we can approach God confidently.

The Blood is so valuable ... so important. It cost God!

Hebrews 10:26-31 (NKJV)

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot,

counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

One who has turned his back ... who once knew ... understood the precious Blood ... shed at great cost ... to turn away ... dismiss as of minor importance ... there is no longer a sacrifice ... but a fearful judgment.

Let's look at some of the details of just what it cost Jesus physically (in addition to giving up His Eternal God-Head originally) ... events just hours after His last Passover.

Matthew 26:30 (NKJV)

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:36-47 (NKJV)

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and **He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.**

38 Then He said to them, "**My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.**" (*Weymouth NT: My soul is crushed with anguish to the very point of death*)

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

41 **Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.**" *(It's a struggle!)*

43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? **Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.**

46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Matthew 26:55-61 (NKJV)

55 In that hour **Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.**

56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

57 And **those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.**

58 **But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.**

59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,

60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. **But at last two false witnesses came forward**

61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "

Matthew 26:65-68 (NKJV)

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!

66 What do you think?"

They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

67 **Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,**

68 saying, "**Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?**" *(This is the Creator of the whole universe ... and He's innocent and being beaten)*

Matthew 26:69-75 (NKJV)

69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."

70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 **But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"**

73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you."

74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.

75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27:1-2 (NKJV)

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.

2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Matthew 27:17-26 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

They said, "Barabbas!"

22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?"

But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" (*the most brutal form of death imaginable*)

24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. (*scourging is designed to prepare you for death ... your whole body goes into shock*)

Matthew 27:27-31 (NKJV)

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. **And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"**

30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Matthew 27:32-37 (NKJV)

32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,

34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

35 **Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots,** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: **"They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."**

36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Matthew 27:45-51 (NKJV)

45 **Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.**

46 **And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"** *(For the first time since eternity ... the Father had to leave His Son on His own)*

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"

48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

50 **And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.** (*Jesus gave His all ... The Father gave up His companion*)

It wasn't "easy" ... Jesus gave His all. That's why Jesus said, "If possible, let this cup pass from me ...".

At this time of the year ... it is worth reflecting on the price that was paid ... the Death of The Son of God ... the Blood of the Lamb shed for you and me on the very day of Passover.

Isaiah 52:13-15 (NKJV)

13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently;
He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

14 **Just as many were astonished at you,
So His visage was marred more than any man,
And His form more than the sons of men;**

15 So shall He sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths at Him;
For what had not been told them they shall see,
And what they had not heard they shall consider.

Isaiah 53:4-9 (NKJV)

4 **Surely He has borne our griefs (infirmities)
And carried our sorrows; (diseases/sicknesses)**

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But **He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,**

And by His stripes we are healed. (Everything that Jesus did ... was for us)

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And ***the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*** (We have been redeemed. All of our sins have been placed on Jesus)

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,

Yet He opened not His mouth;

He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,

And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,

So He opened not His mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment,

And who will declare His generation?

For He was cut off from the land of the living;

For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

9 And they made His grave (*was assigned by the Jews*) with the wicked—

But with the rich at His death, (*but in the end He was placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea ... a rich man*)

Because He had done no violence,

Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Isaiah 53:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,

And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,

Because ***He poured out His soul unto death,***

And He was numbered with the transgressors,

And He bore the sin of many,

And made intercession for the transgressors.

The sacrifice of the Perfect Lamb of God. For you and for me! God didn't need this. It gets our salvation under way.

1 Corinthians 11:25-32 (NKJV)

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. *(It's vital and it's sober)*

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks *(takes Passover)* in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. *(Dying when they shouldn't)*

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. *(So. The best thing to do is to judge ourselves).*

Passover is now one week away. It will speed by. We will be busy ... there will be distractions.

Let's try to make some time so that when we take the wine of Passover ... we are fully aware of what it means ... we remember what it cost Jesus and the Father ... for us personally.

Take it in a right manner ... remembering the precious and valuable Blood of The Lamb ... by which our sins are washed away reconciling us to The Father ... redeemed from the 2nd death and the power of sin ... and looking forward to eternal life.