

Beulah Baptist Church
Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor

Sunday School Lesson: April 2, 2023
Rev. Mark A. Seals, M.Div., Instructor/Teacher
Bro. Mike Moore, Sunday School Superintendent

Lesson—The Lord’s Supper¹

Text: Luke 22:14-30

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. RECOGNIZE that even Jesus believed in service;
2. REFLECT on the sacrificial elements of the Lord’s Supper; and
3. SHARE the sacrifices of our Lord with others.

Key Verse— *“But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve” (Luke 22:26, KJV).*

Lesson Song of Praise and Worship: *“Let Us Break Bread Together, Anonymous, circa 1925”*

II. People Places and Times

Jerusalem. Jerusalem was both the religious and the political seat of Palestine, and the place where the Messiah was expected to arrive. It is located 14 miles west of the Dead Sea, 33 miles east of the Mediterranean. Solomon built the first temple around 1000 years earlier, at the highest point in Jerusalem about, 3800 feet above sea level. The Babylonians destroyed the temple, but it was rebuilt in 515 BC. And Herod the Great Great enlarged and remodeled it.

Jesus spent a lot of time in Jerusalem at the temple, teaching and preaching. Religious leaders often challenged his authority and teachings at the temple. After the death and resurrection of Christ, Jerusalem became the focal point for most events connected with Christianity, beginning with the day of Pentecost, and including much of the history contained in the Acts of the Apostles. A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the temple, the city, and its inhabitants with fire.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of Unleavened Bread immediately followed the Passover and lasted seven days during the month of Nisan, (March to April). Unleavened bread alone was eaten, and the Israelites removed all the yeast from their homes. Exodus 12:15-20; 13:6-8; Leviticus 23:6; Deuteronomy 16:3-8). In the context of the exodus from Egypt, eating bread without yeast signifying the haste of their preparation to depart. Moreover, yeast was not used in most grain offerings to God (Leviticus 2:11). Yeast sometimes symbolize the sin. A little yeast will affect the whole loaf, just as a little sin can destroy a whole life.

¹ Lesson Summary is from Direction Commentary, Urban Ministries Inc. 2022-23 Annual Edition.
(<https://directionbiblestudy.com>)

Background

The Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread were approaching. All Jewish males 12 years old and older had to go to Jerusalem, but the chief priests and scribes felt it would not be a good time to begin their plan to kill Jesus. So, they tried to figure out a way to kill him in the most secretive manner. However, they needed some help. Satan entered the heart of Judas, leading Judas to conspire with the priest and scribes to betray Jesus for money, 30 pieces of silver (Luke 22:5). Judas joined the disciples in Bethany to prepare for the Passover. Jesus arranged to celebrate Passover in the upper room of a house with the disciples.

III. The Lesson At-A-Glance...

1. Institution of the Lord's Supper. (Luke 22: 14-20)
2. The betrayal. (vv. 21-23)
3. Servant leader (vv. 24- 30)

IV. In Depth with More Light on the Text

1. Institution of the Lord's supper (Luke 22: 14 – 20)

Because they had put blood on their door posts, Passover celebrated God passing over the Israelites homes and not killing the first-born males and animals (Exodus 12:1–13). The Passover meal began the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Peter and John secured a lamb, killed it and prepared it for the Passover celebration. They also purchased unleavened bread, wine, and herbs. Once they arrived, on the second night, Jesus and the Apostles gathered for the Passover meal. It had been prophesied that Jesus, the Messiah, would be betrayed (Psalm 41:19; Zechariah 11:12–13; Matthew 20:18; 26:20–25; Acts 1:16, 20). In his death and shared blood, Jesus symbolizes the slain Passover Lamb. The Lord's supper is taken in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice of his body and blood on our behalf. Jesus pronounced a blessing over the bread and the wine, which we now know as the words of institution. Jesus "took bread, and gave thanks, and break it, and gave unto them saying, this is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise, also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shared for you" (v.19-20).

2. The Betrayal (vv.21—23)

After the Passover meal and Lord's Supper was over, Jesus said, "But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. And they began to inquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing"(v.21-23). Here, Jesus let his disciples know that one amongst them, that had celebrated Passover and the Lord's supper at the table, had betrayed Him. The disciples became suspicious about who would do this to their leader. In Matthew and John's accounts, they identified Judas Iscariot as the betrayer (Matthew 26:25; John 13: 26).

3 Servant Leader (vv.24—30)

Jesus had just told his disciples about his impending death when a dispute rose among them over who was the greatest (Luke 22: 24). Jesus told the disciples the one who serves is the greatest (v.26). We can look to Jesus as the example. Even though He could rightly claim His position as Messiah, He came into the world to minister to us because we need him. He did not need us.

Liberating Lesson—... See Sunday School Book

Application for Activation—... See Sunday School Book...

Food for Thought and Questions for Consideration (from the Application for Activation)?

What have we learned (😊 Charlie Brown)? See Lesson Application...

1. What does communion/The Lord's Supper mean for / to you?
2. Both death and life are part of the Lord's supper in the communal elements!

Vocabulary-New Words

A. Remembrance (Luke 22:19) anamnesis (Gk.)—A recollection.

B. Serve (v. 26) diakoneo (Gk.)—To be a servant, attendant.

Daily Bible Readings For the Lesson of March 5th

MONDAY

Keeping the Passover to the Lord (Deuteronomy 16: one – 8)

TUESDAY

What Does This Observance Mean? (Exodus 12:17, 27)

WEDNESDAY

Preparations for the Last Supper (Luke 22: 7 – 13)

THURSDAY

Partaking of the Lord's table (1Corinthians, 10: 14 – 22)

FRIDAY

Showing Contempt for the Church (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)

SATURDAY

Examine Yourselves (1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 32)

SUNDAY

The Lord's Supper (Luke 22: 14 – 30)