



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series
Supports Session 8: Remembered
Sermon Title: "Celebrating Grace"
Passage: Luke 22:14-22

Connection to Luke 22

Just hours away from His death, Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples. The Passover was the first of three annual Jewish festivals (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles), and it was an annual reminder of God's grace in delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage. During the celebration, Jesus instituted a new meal, the Lord's Supper, that pointed forward to God's grace in His Son on the cross.

Introduction/Opening

The night before Jesus' death was a paradox for the disciples. What should have been a night of celebrating Passover was turned upside down by Jesus' seemingly strange actions, cryptic words, and His institution of a new and confusing meal. First, there was the tension that came as Jesus took a basin of water and a towel and washed the disciples' feet. (John 13:4-5) Then there were the strange and confusing sayings. He mentioned something about someone betraying Him. When asked who, all He would say is "He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it" (John 13:26). Then to cap off the confusion, He instituted a new meal—a meal that pointed to an event they were to remember but hadn't even happened yet!

Fortunately, we have the benefit of looking back on that evening through the lens of the resurrection and we understand that night. We understand His actions. We understand His words. We understand the meal. We understand that the Lord's Supper is a celebration of God's grace.

Outline

1. The Lord's Supper celebrates God's substitutionary grace (v. 19).
 - a. The word "grace" doesn't appear in any of the Gospel accounts of Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper, but "grace" is all over the meal.
 - b. In verse 19 Jesus broke the bread, and of it He said, "This is my body." The breaking of the bread symbolizes the breaking His body would endure on the cross and is a reminder of God's substitutionary grace.
 - c. The Bible teaches in Romans 3:23 that "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Three chapters later, in 6:23, Paul wrote, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- d. All humans are sinners and all humans deserve death, but by grace Jesus offered His body in place of all humans. In numerous places the biblical writers affirm the truth of this grace.
 - 1. Second Corinthians 5:21: “He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - 2. First Peter 2:24: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”
 - 3. First Corinthians 15:3: “For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures ... ”
 - e. So yes, humans deserve the cross because of our sin. The Lord’s Supper celebrates that by His grace, God provided His Son as the substitute for all who put their faith in Jesus!
2. The Lord’s Supper celebrates God’s redeeming grace (v. 20).
- a. In verse 20 Jesus said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”
 - b. The wine in that cup represented the blood of Jesus. That is important because without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Leviticus 17:11 says, “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have appointed it to you to make atonement on the altar for your lives, since it is the lifeblood that makes atonement.” Building on that truth, the writer of Hebrews wrote in 9:22, “According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”
 - c. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:7: “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

Conclusion

As the Israelites sat in their homes in Egypt eating a hastily prepared meal, the Egyptians lived a nightmare. Every first born male was stricken and died. The difference? The doorposts of the Israelites were covered with the blood of a sacrificial lamb. Followers of Jesus have been forgiven, have eternal life, and will escape the wrath of God because they are covered in His blood! That is grace, and that is worth celebrating!

Michael Priest lives in Memphis where he has served as pastor of Bartlett Baptist Church for the last 18 years. He has been married to the former Carolyn Leone for 35 years, and they have 4 adult sons, Jonathan, Caleb, David, and Matthew, 2 daughters-in-law, Alex and Rachel, and 1 granddaughter, Cylah. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Blue Mountain College and both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is an avid rock and mountain climber.

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