

It's For You (Luke 22:1-23)

We're studying the gospel of Luke. Today, we will look at cp. 22, from v. 1 to 23. The title of the message is "It's For You."

1. Preparation for the Passover meal

1-2

¹ Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people.

In those days, each day Jesus was teaching people at the temple, and each evening he spend the night with his disciples on the Mount of Olives. (Luke 21:37-38) Jesus didn't teach secretly. He openly taught in public places. He was sure what he was doing was righteous.

On the other hand, the chief priests and the teachers of the law secretly planned to arrest Jesus. They were supposed to do justice and judgment for people, but they were afraid of people. That implies that they themselves had a feeling that their ideas were against righteousness. If they have that feeling, they should examine their thoughts by the Word of God. But, they didn't look into their mind to check if they had wrong motives. Instead they were looking for the opportunity to kill Jesus. They didn't examine their thought in the light of God's righteousness, nor did they seek God's righteousness nor leave the result to God. Instead, they were afraid of people, tried to carry out their plan by their way so that they will not lose their position and privilege.

3-6

³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

One of the 12 disciples was Judas, called Iscariot. He was looking for the opportunity to hand Jesus over to the chief priests. He was not enticed into doing

it by the chief priests. He wasn't threatened nor used. He went to them by himself and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. Of course, the chief priests were delighted, and they agreed to give him money. According to Matthew, Judas received thirty silver coins at that time. (Matt 26:15) Judas started to watch for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them while there was no crowd.

Why did Judas, one of the twelve disciples, come to do such a thing? Luke gives us a simple answer, "Satan entered Judas." (v.3)

Satan enters into a man's heart while he is a bit off guard, directs his thoughts and controls his actions.

John 12:6

⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Judas kept the purse of the group. He was a treasurer. Other disciples also knew that. (John 13:29) He used his position and stole some money from what he was keeping. The Bible says that he was a thief. Probably it was not just once or twice that he stole money. Perhaps he made a habit of stealing money.

"Just this should be all right." That carelessness will give a chance for the enemy. "It's okay if I return it later." Listening to the deceiving voice, you might keep putting it off, and do the same things again and again, and gradually become numb against stealing. If we notice our heart is turning away from God, then we should immediately come back to Him. We shouldn't give Satan a foothold. We must always be on our guard.

Next question is "Why did Jesus leave Judas do what he was doing?" As a Son of God, he must have known that Judas was stealing money. Moreover, he knew that Judas was going to betray him. Then, why did he leave Judas as he was about to do? (John 13:27)

One reason is that he waited Judas to repent. (cf. 2 Peter 3:9) Jesus has been preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, repentance and forgiveness, his own crucifixion and resurrection. Judas also heard it. Jesus also showed his authority as Son of God through signs and wonders, that testified he had authority to forgive sin. Judas also knew about it. At the last supper, Jesus also

washed the feet of Judas, and he showed the full extent of his love. He led Judas to repent. But how he responds to Jesus is up to Judas.

Another reason can be this.

Satan can turn God's people heart from God or hinder their faith in God. But he cannot block God's will. Satan entered Judas' heart and directed him to betray Jesus, and succeeded in separate him from faith in Jesus. It was as if Christ' mission was hindered. However, God's plan of salvation has not been changed and it was progressing steadily for completion.

The Bible doesn't describe Satan as threat against the gospel, rather it describes him as a "supporting" role that brings out more vividly the power of the gospel and God's kingdom, as he is conquered by God's power.

7-13

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." ⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. ¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." ¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

Jesus had already arranged for the Passover meal without telling any of his disciples. For the final preparation, he sent Peter and John who had always been close to Jesus among the twelve disciples.

At this point, all of twelve disciples still didn't know where they will have Passover meal. In the evening, he will bring the ten disciples to the place. (Mark 14:17) Until they arrived there, the ten disciples including Judas didn't know where it would be.

He had to be so cautious. Judas was watching for an opportunity to hand Jesus over when no crowd was present. (v.6) Passover meal was the very good opportunity for that. There would be only his disciples. As Jesus would be in the room, he wouldn't be able to escape. They could have caught him without being seen by anyone else. But Jesus was on guard.

In other words, Jesus wanted to have this Passover meal with his disciples that much. Whatever the cost, he wanted to have this Passover meal without being disturbed.

Just think about this. What if the chief priests and the officers broke into where they were having the Passover meal, and caught Jesus? They would have handed Jesus over to Pilate, incited the crowd to ask Jesus to be crucified. Jesus would be crucified, and would rise again on the third day. The outline won't be changed that much.

But then, we would not have John chapter 13 through 17. The disciples would miss Jesus' very important last teachings: To love one another as Jesus loved them, To love Jesus and remain in His love. That the Holy Spirit, the Counselor would be sent. The disciples would not have heard these teachings. They wouldn't have heard Jesus' prayer that they may be one as Father and Son are one, in His name.

God's promises will be certainly fulfilled. Satan cannot hinder that. But it doesn't mean we can spend our time just going with the flow. If we are off guard, with no plan nor preparation, we might miss important opportunities.

It was very important for Jesus to have this Passover meal together with his disciples. Jesus had already started preparation for the Passover meal before he was asked by his disciples. Understanding the situation correctly, he was very careful in his planning. Because of this careful planning, the meal was not disturbed, although there was a betrayer.

Now, let's think about the owner of the house where Jesus had the Passover meal with his disciples. One day, he was told by Jesus that he wanted to have Passover meal in his place and was asked to prepare the room secretly so that even his disciples wouldn't know about it. Probably he felt proud to have Jesus in his place. It must have been difficult for him to keep it to himself, not telling anyone about it. But he kept the promise.

The day of Unleavened Bread came. He must have been very busy, for he also had to prepare Passover for his family too. He knew that in the evening Jesus would come with his disciples. "All right, I can prepare their table after they arrive and I count their numbers." He didn't think like that. At any cost, he wanted to finish the preparation before Jesus arrives. The time was limited. He made the arrangement and prepared the room steadily. So, he didn't panic when Peter and John came.

He would never have imagined that this Passover meal was to appear in all four gospels. John even used about one fourth of his writing. For him, it was just one of the Passover meals which they celebrate every year. But he was diligent in his preparation, although no one sees it. However well he prepared, it was not he himself who eat it. Even so, he didn't cut corners, but did all the necessary preparations. When Peter and John came, he had already finished all his part of preparations and was ready to welcome Jesus.

This owner of the house knew that Jesus was coming. He knew what kind of preparation he had to do. He was diligent in his preparation to receive Jesus. That was his joy and honor. It was this owner of the house and his workers who were the behind-the-scenes leading actors who made this Passover meal possible. They took that big roll without notice.

In the previous chapter, in v.34, there is a warning, "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap." Jesus will certainly come. There is no power which can hinder it. We want to prepare not only for us to meet him, but also for others around us to receive him. Jesus will come again. What a glory it is to take part in the fulfillment of God's plan! It's for you.

The time of God will come. Until then, let us do faithfully what we are supposed to do in the Lord. Then, we will not panic no matter when it comes.

2. Lamb was slain

14-20

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

First, let's look at "the Passover Feast". David Watson, in his book "I

Believe The Church" suggests as follows:

"The Passover called the Jew to *look back* by remembering God's mercy when he delivered his people from the land of bondage. A vital part of the ritual was the telling of the story of the Exodus, the story of God's wonderful salvation from Egypt. ... It was not just a remembrance; in a sense God's people forcefully reminded them of the bitterness of the bondage that their fathers suffered in Egypt. Every member of the household had to eat the Passover as if he were taking part it, or reliving, his own deliverance from bondage.

The Passover also called the Jew to *look in*, by purifying himself and his household from anything that was evil. The head of house would perform a little ritual, systematically search through the house, looking for any scrap of leaven. Leaven was a sign of corruption or evil; and before the Passover Feast could be held in that house, every trace of corruption had to be removed.

The Jew was called to *look around*. In no sense was this Feast a private affair. It involved the whole household, children and all.

The Jew was called to *look forward*, by waiting for the messianic age, when God's purposes for Israel would be fulfilled. They were looking forward to future salvation."¹

As the Jew he disciples must have those understanding.

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¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Jesus knew very well that he would suffer. And he knew that the time of suffering would come soon. In the situation where he was heading toward the suffering, he eagerly desired to eat the Passover with his disciples. And he said;

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¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

In v.16, it is said "Until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." (NASB) And in v.18, it is also said "Until the kingdom of God comes." (NASB) Jesus had no question that the kingdom of God would come. Jesus says to his disciples God's

¹ David Watson, "I Believe The Church", Hodder and Stoughton, 1978, pp..237-239

promise, which Passover festival has been pointing, would soon be fulfilled. Israel's long awaited Exodus, God's liberation and true salvation, which Israelites handed down from generation to generation, was about to come. It doesn't stop at individual, but will grow into the group of disciples, and then community of God's people and the kingdom of God will extend.

This verse seems to refer to the Messianic banquet (cf. Luke 22:18, 30; 14:15; Matt. 8:11; 26:29; Rev. 19:9). Close fellowship with Jesus, rich fellowship with Him with other disciples, that is the "core" of the kingdom of God. By inviting people and adding them into this fellowship, the kingdom of God will be built up. It's for you.

Jesus told his disciples, "This is my body given for you." (v.19) Jesus is the lamb God prepared for sacrifice. "The lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

"Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself." (Heb 9:26) Eternal redemption was obtained once for all, so we no longer need to give sacrifice for sin. (Heb 9:12) We just need to remain in the grace of Christ's redemption by faith. (Rom 5:2, Eph 2:8)

And Jesus also said to his disciples, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (v.20)

Heb 8:8-12

⁸ But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ⁹ It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ¹¹ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

The new covenant is compared with the covenant given when Israel was

saved out of Egypt. As Jesus talked about this new covenant at the Passover meal, disciples could easily understand this.

The old covenant was engraved on the stone. (Deut 10:1-4) The letters engraved on the stone cannot be changed. In that respect, the new covenant is the same. It cannot be changed also.

But here is what is superior about the new covenant. That is, God's word is written on our heart. Paul described this in one word, "We have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor 2:16)

At the last supper, Jesus told his disciples that they would be give the Holy Spirit. He said "The Spirit of truth lives with you, and will be in you" (John 14:17) "And He will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13)

Jesus told them, "The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed." (v.22) And he went as he said. And as he promised, he sent the Holy Spirit, the Counselor to his disciples. (John 16:7)

Acts 2:33

³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

God gives His Holy Spirit to each one of us who believe. (Acts 5:32) And this Holy Spirit guarantees that we would inherit the kingdom of God. (Eph 1:14) It's for you.

3. Sacrifice for you

Jesus told his disciples, "This is my body given for you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of the man who is going to betray me is with mine on the table." (v.21)

What was the disciples' response to this? They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. (v.23) "It is not me. It should be someone else." That attitude is the problem.

Certainly the other eleven will not sell Jesus over to the chief priests. But they also cannot be saved without the sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, and redemption through Jesus' cross. There is no one who is justified by observing the law before Holy God. But we are justified only by faith in Christ. (Gal 2:16)

Salvation is only by grace of Christ. (Eph 2:5)

Every time they had Passover meal, Jews remembered that they used to be slaves in Egypt, and that God saved them from the slavery. For Passover, animals were slaughtered. God passed over them when he saw the blood. People in the house were not killed. Every time they had Passover meal, these things are repeatedly told. And the family relived, re-experienced God's Passover by having Passover meal together. (cf. Ex 13:14-15)

For whom was Jesus crucified on the cross? He was crucified for me, for you. By his cross, who was forgiven? I was forgiven. You were forgiven. You don't have to feel dejected remembering what sins you committed before. The Bible says "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12) That's how God forgave us. That's how you are forgiven. Though you are already forgiven, if you keep remembering your past mistakes, keep feeling guilty and keep asking for mercy, it is as if you were saying you don't believe in God's forgiveness.

It is also a wrong attitude to boast about how much wrong doing we have been committing. But the more we know the seriousness of our sin, the more we know the greatness of God's grace. It will become clearer and clearer that we can be saved only by grace. And the more we understand how much we were forgiven, the more we love him. (Luke 7:42-43)

Jesus knew that Judas was stealing their money. He knew Judas was about to betray him. That is why he had to do the arrangement for the Passover meal secretly. But he still took Judas along with other disciples to the Passover meal. He also washed Judas feet as he washed other disciples'. He also gave Judas the piece of bread. (John 13:26)

1 Tim 2:5-6

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

Christ gave himself as a ransom for all men's redemption. It's for all men's redemption. All people, every one. It's for you. There is no one who cannot be redeemed by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The question is whether

we receive this grace by faith. The question is whether we remain in this grace by faith. It's for you.

Rom 5:8-11, 1-2

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹ since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.