

## THE UPPER ROOM

- Jesus has been discipling these men for almost three years. Now He **intentionally** teaches **the characteristics of a disciple**: humility and love.

## THE PASSOVER MEAL

- Jesus washes His disciples' feet.
- Seder Feast (The Order): one of the festivals commanded by God. (See **Leviticus 23**)
- The Passover meal celebrates God rescuing the Israelites from slavery with the tenth plague: The Firstborn.
- The prep-work included getting rid of yeast getting in the house. Yeast represents pride (that which puffs up), so they ate unleavened bread.
- **Every part of it has to do with the story of the Passover, and during the meal, they retell what God has done.**

## FOUR CUPS OF WINE

1. The Cup of Sanctification: "I will take you out..."
2. The Cup of Deliverance: "I will save you..."
3. The Cup of Redemption: "I will redeem you..."
  - Jesus institutes the New Covenant with the third cup (**of redemption**).

## MOST OFTEN, REDEMPTION INVOLVES PAYING A PRICE TO "BUY BACK" THE PERSON OR THING BEING RANSOMED.

- They were living under the Mosaic Law (Old Covenant). Everything about the Old Covenant was designed to remind people of who God is and what He expects.
  - A covenant includes two people or parties, and a biblical Covenant is instituted by God.
- An animal was killed and divided into two halves. The two people would walk in between the halves declaring the conditions and consequences of the covenant.
  - The law condemns, and the sacrifices redeem. (God's required price.)
- The Mosaic Covenant includes The 10 Commandments, kosher laws (dealing with food), the Sacrifices (because people failed in keeping the Law), as well as Celebrations and Holy Days.

**Matthew 26:26–30** <sup>26</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup>Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." <sup>30</sup>When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

## 1. NOW JESUS REVEALS A NEW COVENANT. (See also Jeremiah 11:6-8)

- The Jews had broken the Old Covenant. This New Covenant was also a fulfillment of prophecy.

## GOD HAD REVEALED THAT SOMEDAY A NEW COVENANT WOULD BE MADE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS PEOPLE.

**Jeremiah 31:31–33** <sup>31</sup>"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup>"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

## A NEW COVENANT:

- Jesus came to set straight the Law. ("You have heard it said, but I say...")
  - The Jews had missed the point. Love was the purpose. (See **Matthew 22:37-40**)
- Jesus came to give the reasons, conditions, consequences, and observances of a New Covenant.
- The Old Covenant was a foreshadowing; the ultimate fulfillment was Christ.

## 2. JESUS CAME TO REVEAL GOD'S PART OF THE COVENANT.

**The price for redemption:** The Life Blood of Jesus, the perfect Lamb provided by God

**God's perspective of sin:** blood and death

- Only the perfect sacrifice of Jesus could pay the price for all of our sin. (See **Isaiah 53:5-7** and **John 6:53**)
- Jesus came to reveal the righteousness of God (*shalom*). Jesus is what righteousness looks like in real life. He came to be the ultimate sacrifice for sin—the fulfillment of the Old Covenant. Jesus was declaring the extent of His love with His death on the cross. He was declaring His hatred of sin by demonstrating what the ultimate penalty for sin is.

## 3. OUR PART OF THE COVENANT: WE MUST ACCEPT IT (See **Matthew 26:26**), REMEMBER IT, AND OBEY IT.

- Jesus came to offer us a New Covenant between God's people and Himself.
- Jesus came to offer us a new heart with the Holy Spirit's help.
- Our job is to love Him, remember Him, and obey Him.
- Jesus reveals what comes next with the fourth cup of wine.

## SIN REQUIRES DEATH, BLOODSHED.

**Leviticus 17:10–12** <sup>10</sup>I will set my face against any Israelite or any foreigner residing among them who eats blood, and I will cut them off from the people. <sup>11</sup>For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I say to the Israelites, "None of you may eat blood, nor may any foreigner residing among you eat blood."

## JESUS' BLOOD IS THE ONLY BLOOD VALUABLE ENOUGH. (See also **Hebrews 9:22**)

**Hebrews 9:12–14** <sup>12</sup>He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. <sup>14</sup>How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

## THE NEW COVENANT: JESUS, HIS HOLY BLOOD, AND GOD'S SPIRIT WITHIN US

**Hebrews 8:7–13** <sup>7</sup>For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. <sup>8</sup>But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>9</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors 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. <sup>10</sup>This is the covenant I will establish with the people 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. <sup>11</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. <sup>12</sup>For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." <sup>13</sup>By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

## THE SEDER FEAST HAS A FOURTH CUP (See **Revelation 19:7** and **19:9**)

4. The Cup of Praise or Celebration: "I will take you as a nation..."

## WHAT NOW?

- Easter is so important! Communion together reminds me Who God Is, who I am, who we are, what our purpose is, of our eternity, and of the fourth cup.

## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS IN LIFE GROUP OR WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**Passages to consider:** Luke 22:14-23; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 9:11-15

- Share what you found meaningful from the sermon.
- 1. Read **Luke 22:14-23**. What do you see Jesus doing and saying in this passage?
- 2. A) What does the word "covenant" mean? B) What has been your experience with covenants?
- 3. Take a look at **Hebrews 9:15**. What additional insight does that bring to Jesus and covenant?
- 4. A) Talk about where you are in the process of a covenant relationship with Jesus. B) What questions do you have about that commitment? C) Share about when you entered into that type of relationship with Jesus.
- 5. A) How does Jesus' New Covenant and that relationship impact you daily? B) Is there any area you want to see impacted more by it? What might that look like?

**Next week: The Glorious Exchange (Week 3):** Tenebrae and Easter

**Passages to prepare:** John 18, 19, and 20