

Matthew 26:17-30

● RESURRECTION OF THE KING - Matthew 26-28

- o Preparing His Disciples...
 - Jesus told the Disciples He would be BETRAYED - and CRUCIFIED [third time He told them]
 - Jesus was the LAMB of God - who would take away our SIN so DEATH would pass over us...
 - As He was telling His disciples - the RELIGIOUS leaders were plotting at the house of Caiaphas...
 - After the resurrection of Lazarus - all of Israel was following Jesus - He had to DIE...
 - But they did NOT want to KILL Jesus on the PASSOVER - yet God was the one in control!
- o Preparing His Burial...
 - Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the Leper...
 - A woman came in and poured SPIKENARD [very valuable] on His head...
 - Some of the DISCIPLES [Judas] were upset - it could have been sold and given to the POOR...
 - But Jesus rebuked them - the woman understood - Jesus was about to DIE!
- o Preparing His Betrayal...
 - Then Judas Iscariot [from the city] went to the chief priests to BETRAY Jesus...
 - They offered him THIRTY pieces of silver - **Zechariah 11:12**
 - Where the woman had GIVEN all - and understood the plan of God...
 - Judas WANTED it all - and therefore was willing to betray the Lord!

● 1ST - PREPARING THE MEAL... vs. 17-19

- o 1st - Unleavened Bread... vs. 17
 - Looking back...
 - Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus!
 - The FEAST of Unleavened bread was one of the SEVEN feasts of Israel - **Leviticus 23:4-8**
 - It looked back at how God rescued Israel from the bondage of Egypt!
 - The Jews had to leave so FAST - their BREAD did not have time to rise - **Exodus 12:39**
 - Therefore - as part of the PASSOVER [πάσχα] - they were NOT to eat any LEAVEN...
 - If anyone did eat LEAVEN - they would be CUT off from Israel - **Exodus 12:19**
 - To this day the PASSOVER [πάσχα] begins by kids removing all the BREAD [leaven]
 - Leaven...
 - LEAVEN [ζύμη] - what we commonly call YEAST [causes bread to RISE]
 - Is used as a picture in the Bible - always to describe SIN - **I Corinthians 5:7**
 - LEAVEN [yeast] - is a micro-organism [plant] begins to DECAY when it touches flour...
 - The gas given off by the process causes bread to PUFF up and rise...
 - A little leaven is ALL that is needed to saturate a whole batch of bread dough!
 - In the same way SIN has the ability to spread DECAY - cause men to be PUFFED up...
 - And it only takes a LITTLE for it to SPREAD and infect the WHOLE church - **Galatians 5:9**
 - Because LEAVEN [sin] will CUT us off from the presence of God...
 - Jesus came to be our PASSOVER Lamb - He came to take away SIN [leaven]!
- o 2nd - The First Day... vs. 17
 - Confusion...
 - Saying: Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?
 - There is some CONFUSION about WHEN this PREPARATION took place...
 - The Passover lamb is sacrificed at SUNDOWN on the 14 day of Nisan - **Leviticus 23:5**
 - The Feast of Unleavened bread begins the next day [15 day of Nisan] - **Leviticus 23:6**
 - Yet we are told that on this FIRST day of the Unleavened Bread - they SACRIFICED the Lamb!
 - **Luke 22:7** - "Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread when the Passover must be killed."

- Timeline...
 - This CONFUSION has caused questions about the TIMING of the Last Supper...
 - The best assumption is that PASSOVER [14 Nisan] is seen as the FIRST day of the FEAST...
 - That then continued on as Unleavened Bread for SEVEN more days...
 - And when we look at the BIG picture - it seems to confirm the timeline!
 - [Sunday] the Triumphal Entry was FOUR days [10 Nisan] before the cross - **Exodus 12:3**
 - [Monday] THREE days [11 Nisan] before the cross Jesus was confronted in the Temple...
 - [Wednesday] TWO days later [13 Nisan] the disciples PREPARED for the feast - **Mark 14:1**
 - It is important to remember that Jews count a day from EVENING to MORNING - **Genesis 1:5**
 - So that NIGHT [now the 14 Nisan] Jesus had the LAST supper on PASSOVER [πάσχα]
 - [Thursday] the following morning [still 14 Nisan] Jesus was Crucified [not Friday]
 - [Sunday] THREE days later [17 Nisan] - He was RESURRECTED!
 - **Matthew 12:40** - "The Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
 - NOT that it matters what DAY Jesus was crucified - what matters is that our SIN is paid...
 - But many of the things we believe to be Biblical are just TRADITIONS...
 - That is why it is so important to study our Bibles - learn what the Word says!
- o 3rd - Anonymous... vs. 18-19
 - No names...
 - [Jesus] 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.
 - So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them - and they prepared the Passover!
 - What is interesting is that in this command there are NO proper nouns - no NAMES...
 - Jesus told His DISCIPLES [unnamed] they MUST [imperative] go into the city [Jerusalem]
 - There they would meet a MAN [δεδῖνα] - someone whose name was NOT important...
 - They MUST [imperative] tell that man the TEACHER [διδάσκαλος] wanted to use his house...
 - They would prepare the PASSOVER [πάσχα] there - because His TIME [καιρός] was NEAR...
 - And [καὶ] the DISCIPLES did as Jesus had instructed!
 - Glory to God...
 - This MEAL is one of the most important events in HISTORY - the LAST supper...
 - Yet we have NO idea WHOSE house they met in - or WHO prepared the meal...
 - Because this event was all about ONE person - Jesus Christ!
 - When God commands us to do something - we must obey...
 - But we do NOT do it for the GLORY or the RECOGNITION...
 - Our goal should be to have our names be FORGOTTEN - we do NOT matter...
 - What we want is for people to see Jesus - He is the POINT!
 - **I Corinthians 10:31** - "Whatever you do - do all to the glory of God!"
- 2ND - GIVING A CHOICE... vs. 20-25
 - o 1st - The opportunity... vs. 20-21
 - When evening had come He sat down with the twelve.
 - Now as they were eating He said: Assuredly I say to you - one of you will betray Me!
 - When EVENING was come [Wednesday] - the beginning of the 14 day of Nisan...
 - When the Jews were commanded to kill and eat the PASSOVER lamb - **Exodus 12:6**
 - Jesus sat down with the TWELVE men He had CHOSEN - **Matthew 10:1-4**
 - But as they were EATING [present] - Jesus said to the TWELVE...
 - AMEN [ἀμήν] - one of them would [indicative] BETRAY [παραδίδωμι] Him...
 - It was NOT a question - Jesus already KNEW who the BETRAYER was!
 - **John 6:70** - "Did I not choose you the twelve - and one of you is a devil?"
 - JUDAS had already gone to the chief priests - been given THIRTY pieces of silver...

- But he had NOT yet BETRAYED the Lord - he still had a choice...
 - And Jesus was giving him the opportunity to REPENT!
 - We ALWAYS have a CHOICE when it comes to SIN...
 - We might think we are too far down the road - there is NO turning back...
 - But NO one is too far gone - there is NO sin God cannot forgive - **Romans 5:20**
 - And God WANTS to forgive us - all we have to do is being willing to TURN to Him!
- o 2nd - Self-reflection... vs. 22
- They were exceedingly sorrowful and each of them began to say to Him: Lord is it [me]?
 - When the DISCIPLES heard this they were VERY [σφόδρα] sad...
 - Then EACH of them began to ask - is it ME [ἐγώ εἰμι] Lord [κύριος]
 - NONE of them was confident enough to say - NOT me...
 - Meaning ALL of them had DOUBTS - and had thought about betraying the Lord!
 - We tend to FORGET when others make mistakes – we are SINNERS as well...
 - We might think we would NEVER be so foolish as to do that [Judas]
 - But the truth is we are more than capable of ANY sin...
 - WHEN we make mistakes – we do NOT judgment – we want GRACE...
 - If we remember that we will be far KINDER to others when they stumble!
 - **Matthew 7:2**– “With what judgment you judge - you will be judged.”
- o 3rd - Showing Kindness... vs. 23
- [Jesus] answered and said: He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me!
 - Jesus answer to their DOUBT - he who DIPS [aorist] with Me - will BETRAY [indicative] Me...
 - But this did NOT reveal who the BETRAYER was - they ALL dipped with Him...
 - Jesus was still reaching out to Judas - telling Him he was still welcome!
 - In the Jewish culture - food was shared with everyone at the table...
 - There was a bowl in the middle where EVERYONE dipped [and double dipped]
 - So when you shared a meal with someone - you were SHARING everything [germs]!
 - If we know someone who is struggling with sin – reach out to them...
 - They expect judgment – they expect to be shunned – they expect to be rejected...
 - When instead they are given the Love of God – it can change their heart!
 - **Romans 2:4**– “Knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance.”
- o 4th - Warning of wrath... vs. 24
- The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him.
 - But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!
 - It would have been good for that man if he had not been born!
 - Since Judas did NOT confess - or respond to KINDNESS - Jesus gave him a WARNING...
 - The Son of Man [title for Jesus] would go [indicative] as it was written - **Psalms 41:9**
 - But WOE to the man who Jesus was BETRAYED [passive] by...
 - It would have been [imperfect] BETTER [καλός] if [εἰ] that man had NOT [οὐ] been BORN...
 - Meaning Judas was heading the WRONG way - he was NOT going to make it to HEAVEN!
 - It is hard to confront people with their SIN – especially those who we care about...
 - We might think it is better NOT to confront someone who is sinning...
 - But the truth is leaving someone in their SIN - is risking them going to HELL...
 - Therefore - we are called to EXHORT them in spite of how we fear it might hurt them...
 - Not that we can make them REPENT – it is their CHOICE - but we can WARN them...
 - Our motive needs to be LOVE - we want to see them FORGIVEN!
 - **Ephesians 4:15** - “Speaking the truth in love.”

- o 5th - No Repentance... vs. 25
 - Playing innocent...
 - Then Judas who was betraying Him answered and said:
 - Rabbi is it [me]? He said to him: you have said it!
 - Judas - who was actively choosing to BETRAY [present] Jesus...
 - ANSWERED Him by saying - is it ME [ἐγώ εἰμὶ] Rabbi - he did NOT say Lord [κύριος]
 - He was trying to ACT just like everyone else - HIDE his DARK motive...
 - Therefore Jesus - no doubt with a heavy heart said - it is YOU!
 - Into the Darkness - **John 13:27**
 - After the piece of bread Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him: What you do - do quickly!
 - Unwilling to repent – unwilling to change – Judas sealed his fate...
 - Judas was determined to go through with his plan – to betray God...
 - Because he loved MONEY - this world - more than he loved the Lord...
 - Therefore Satan entered him again – and he ran out into the DARKNESS of night...
 - None of the disciples understood what had happened – they did NOT expect Judas...
 - The assumed he had the money – maybe Jesus told him to pay for the meal!
 - **Genesis 6:3** – “The LORD said - My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.”
 - If a personal CONTINUALLY refuses to turn to the Lord – they will NOT repent...
 - There will come a point when God will give them what they want...
 - If someone is intent on refusing God – refusing to go to Heaven – intent on going to hell...
 - If they want their sin more than God – God will NOT force them to change...
 - But we do NOT know when that point is – ONLY God knows - **II Timothy 2:19**
 - So we keep on loving them – hoping – praying – that they still choose life!
 - **Hebrews 3:13** - “Warn each other every day... so that none of you will be deceived by sin.”^[NLT]
- 3RD - THE LAST SUPPER... vs. 26-30
 - o 1st - The Bread... vs. 26
 - Three in one...
 - As they were eating Jesus took bread!
 - With Judas now gone - Jesus could do what He had been waiting for...
 - He took the Unleavened BREAD - it is a FLAT [unleavened] bread called MATZAH [מַצָּה]
 - There are THREE pieces of MATZAH – inside in ONE bag [matzah tosh]
 - The ONLY piece that is eaten in the PASSOVER - it the SECOND piece!
 - The idea of God being THREE in ONE has caused a lot of confusion...
 - The reason is because there is NOTHING else like God...
 - It should NOT come as a surprise that finite man CANNOT comprehend and infinite God...
 - And the Bible does NOT try to explain to us HOW the TRINITY works!
 - But there can be no DOUBT that it is how God defines His character...
 - The doctrine of the TRINITY - DEITY of Jesus - is a NON-negotiable of our FAITH...
 - **Romans 9:5**: Eternally blessed GOD - **Isaiah 9:6**: the mighty GOD
 - **John 20:28**: Our Lord and GOD - **I John 5:20**: the True GOD - **Titus 2:3**: Great God
 - Afikomen...
 - [Jesus] blessed and broke it And gave it to the disciples and said: Take - eat. This is My body!
 - The MATZAH is unleavened [no sin] - PIERCED and STRIPED [Jews do not know why]
 - It is also known as the - bread of affliction – **Deuteronomy 16:3**
 - But only the center piece of the MATZAH is broken - called the AFIKOMEN [comes after]
 - The AFIKOMEN is wrapped in a white cloth – and taken away and hidden [buried]
 - It is brought out at the END of the MEAL - at the conclusion of the PASSOVER!
 - God became as a man – IMMANUEL - to live a perfect sinless life...

- Jesus did what no one else could – He fulfilled the righteous requirement of the LAW...
- Then He was BROKEN – so we could be HEALED – forgiven of our sins!
- **Isaiah 53:5** – “He was wounded for our transgressions - He was bruised for our iniquities... and by His stripes we are healed.”
- o 2nd - The Wine... vs. 27-29
 - Four cups...
 - Then He took the cup and gave thanks - and gave it to them saying: Drink from it all of you!
 - Jesus commanded the DISCIPLES - they were to ALL [παῖς] drink from THE [ὁ] cup...
 - There are FOUR cups in all that are used in the PASSOVER!
 - KEDDUSH - the first cup is BLESSING - giving THANKS for all God has done - **Luke 22:17**
 - MAKKOT - the second cup is PLAGUES - remembering the TEN plagues of Egypt
 - HAGEULAH - the third cup is REDEMPTION - taken AFTER the meal - **Luke 22:20**
 - HALLEL - the fourth cup is PRAISE - declaring next year we will be in Jerusalem!
 - It was the THIRD cup - REDEMPTION - that Jesus gave for ALL [παῖς] to drink...
 - Because Jesus came to REDEEM everyone - bring us back to God - **John 3:16**
 - New Covenant... vs. 28
 - For this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins!
 - Jesus told His DISCIPLES that the CUP is [present] His BLOOD...
 - BLOOD represents LIFE - if we have no blood we die - **Leviticus 17:11**
 - What Jesus was saying is that He was going to DIE - so we could have a NEW Covenant...
 - A NEW way for us to be FORGIVEN [ἀφίημι] of our SINS!
 - **Romans 3:20** – “No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.” [NLT]
 - The OLD covenant had a FAULT – that is why there was a need for NEW Covenant...
 - The FAULT is NOT in the Law – it is PERFECT – **Romans 7:12**
 - The FAULT is in US - we are NOT perfect – **Romans 3:23**
 - And it only takes one sin to keep us out of heaven - **James 2:10**
 - While the perfect LAW has the power to show us we are SINNERS – **Romans 7:7**
 - The LAW is LIMITED – it has no POWER to make us PERFECT!
 - **Hebrew 8:10-12** - “This is the [NEW] Covenant... their sins I will remember no more.”
 - REMEMBER [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] - the most powerful negation in Greek...
 - We are sinners – we have made countless mistakes – but we have Jesus...
 - And now when God looks down on us – He does NOT see our FAULTS...
 - He instead sees the PERFECT life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as FAULTLESS!
 - **Psalms 103:12** - “He removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.”
 - Communion - **Luke 22:19**
 - Do this in remembrance of Me!
 - We MUST [imperative] be doing [present] this - so we do NOT forget!
 - This is where we get the COMMAND from the Lord to partake of COMMUNION...
 - Because while it is true that salvation is FREE for us - it is given by GRACE [gift]
 - We must never forget that it cost Jesus EVERYTHING!
 - **I Corinthians 11:26** - “As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup [we] proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”
 - Marriage Supper... vs. 29
 - I say to you I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on.
 - Until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom!
 - Jesus concluded by giving an amazing PROMISE...
 - He would NEVER [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] drink the fruit of the vine [HaGeulah] again...

- Until He did it with them in the Kingdom of His Father!
 - In Jewish custom - when a GROOM proposed to His BRIDE...
 - He would seal their engagement with a shared cup of wine...
 - After the engagement the groom would leave and return to his fathers house...
 - There He would remain separate from His bride for an undefined amount of time...
 - He would return in day and hour when least expected to get His BRIDE for the wedding!
 - John 14:3 - "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am there you may be also."
 - Jesus is waiting for the day when HE gets to come and bring us HOME [rapture]
 - Every time we partake of COMMUNION - we are looking forward to the WEDDING!
- o 3rd - Hallel Psalms... vs. 30
- When they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives!
 - The PASSOVER finished with a HYMN - and then they went to the MOUNT of olives...
 - To a place called the Garden of Gethsemane - where Jesus would be BETRAYED!
 - **Psalms 113-118** - are known as the HALLEL Psalms...
 - They remember the Passover – and the deliverance of Israel from Egypt...
 - These psalms are sung every year to this day as part of the Passover ceremony!
 - **Psalm 116:8-12** - "You have delivered my soul from death.... I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.... I will take up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD."
 - We cannot know for certain - but I can imagine this is the HYMN they were singing...
 - For the DISCIPLES the words might have just been TRADITION...
 - But Jesus KNEW they were far more than that - it was PROPHECY...
 - He knew He was about to DIE - but through Him - death would be DEFEATED...
 - Giving LIFE to EVERYONE who takes up the CUP of salvation - calls on the name of the LORD!
 - **I Corinthians 15:55-57** - "Death where is your sting? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."