

The Lord's Supper

November 2025

Steve Price

Institution of the Lord's Supper

➤ Passover

- The setting was the Passover (Mt 14.12-16, 20, 29; Mk 14.12-17, 25; Lk 22.14-16)
- Picturesque: Ex 12
 - Specific day, specified lamb (vv 2-3, 5-6)
 - Sacrificed at twilight (v 6)
 - Some blood put on the doorposts/lintel (v 7)
 - Sharing the lamb uniquely together for dinner (vv 8-13)
 - Spared from the death blow of the judging angel (vv 12-13)
 - Special memorial for generations of the event (v 14)

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- Proceedings (order suggested by Edersheim and other sources)
 - Discussions: Who is the greatest (Lk 22.24-30)
 - Normal order of events
 - Foot-washing: A servant or slave would do this
 - Non-ritual wine: No religious significance
 - Firsthand-washing: Done before the meal
 - Table setting: Four glasses of ritual wine are in front of each seat
 - Reclining and seating: Sop given to the right-hand person
 - First cup: Ex 6.6a and “I am the Lord & will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians”—not mentioned in Scripture

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➤ Proceedings

□ Normal order of events (cont'd)

- *Karpas*: Bitter herbs dipped in salt water/vinegar (reminds of the bitter bondage)
- Second cup: Served with the question, “What does this mean?” The father explains & all sing the first half of the Hallel Psalms (113-114), followed by prayer--“I will deliver you” (Exod 6.6b); cup of Lk 22.17
- Second hand-washing (perhaps when the Lord washed the disciples' feet, Jn 13.2-13); troubled Lord, Jn 13.21-24; lamb/ vegetables are served
- Prayer over the bread then its passing with the guest of honor—perhaps the time Judas is given the sop and leaves (Jn 13.25-30)

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➤ Proceedings

▣ Normal order of events (cont'd)

- Meal served beginning/thanks for the bread—i.e., Lord & the bread
- Third cup: Served with the last of the unleavened bread is passed. All say: “I will redeem you with an outstretched arm & with great judgments” (Exod 6:6c); institution of the L. Supper (Lk 22.20)
- Post-meal grace: All recite, “The name of the Lord be blessed from now until eternity...” and the father recites Ex 6.6; then the wine is drunk. This appears to be the cup the Lord used to install the Lord's supper (Lk 22.20, after supper)

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- Proceedings (cont'd)
 - Normal order of events (cont'd)
 - Fourth cup: Is poured, Father recites Ex 6.7a; Ps 115-118 is sung
- Peter's denial is predicted: Mt 26.30-35, Mk 14.26-31, Lk 22.31-39, Jn 13.36-38)
- Person: Christ himself founded this event
 - Mt 26.26-29 Mk 14.22-25, Lk 22.19-20: "Do this in remembrance of Me"
 - 1 Cor 11.20, 23, 26-27, 29, 32 (Note the frequent use of the title "Lord")

Instruction of the Lord's Supper

➤ Perspective (1 Cor 11.23-26)

- “Having given thanks” = i.e., at this portion of the Passover meal (perhaps his impending death), he passed the bread (24)
- Bread-Concept #1: Grain (v 24a)
 - Jn 12.24: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much grain”
 - Hb 2.14: “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He himself likewise shared in the same... through death, He might destroy him who had the power of death...the Devil”

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➤ Perspective (v 24a)

- Bread-Concept #2: Grain grounded and baked
 - Grain is ground to fine powder to make bread
 - He was ground to fine powder
 - Mt. 26.38, Lk 22.44--“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful ...agony”
 - Ps 22.1, 6: “Why have you forsaken me...I am a worm and no man...reproach of men...”

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➤ Perspective (v 24a)

- Bread-Concept #3: Broken for you...given for you
 - Is 50.4: "I gave My back to those who struck Me...My cheeks to those who plucked out my beard, I did not turn My face from shame and spitting"
 - Ps 129.3: "The plowers plowed on back...furrows"
 - Is 52.14: "So His visage was marred [disfigured] more than any man and His form more than the sons of men"

Instruction of the Lord's Supper

➤ Perspective

■ Cup: Wine (v 25a)

- Concept #1: Wine is called the blood of the grape (Gn 49.11, Dt 32.14) and this juice is obtained by crushing the grape (Job 24.11)
- Concept #2: “The life of the flesh is in the blood” (Lev 17.11)
- Conclusion: When the blood of a life is drained, so is the life drained from a person...i.e., death

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➤ Perspective

■ Cup: Wine (cont'd), v 25a

- Concept #3: “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness” (Hb 9.22); “For the forgiveness of sins (Mt 26.28)
- Concept #4:
 - ❖ Efficient in the heart—“How much more the blood of Christ cleanse your conscience from dead...” (Hb 9.13)
 - ❖ Efficient for all and all sins: “The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin” (1 Jn 1.7); “Shed for many” (Mk 14.24)

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➤ Perspective

- Cup: Wine (cont'd), v 25a
 - Concept #5: New covenant terms: Heb 8.10-12, 10.15-17
 - Concept #6: Future anticipation and communion with 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" (Mt 26.29)
- "Do this in remembrance of me" (v 25b)
 - "Remembrance"=reminder or call to one's mind
 - "Me": Person vs work/things done for me
 - ❖ Illustration: Home repairs (cf. Jer 9.24)

Instruction of the Lord's Supper

➤ Perspective

- “Do this in remembrance of me” (cont’d), v. 25
 - Remember his name (Psa 20.7, Is 42.8, Jer 9.24)
 - Remember his love (1 John 4.10)
 - Remember his mercies (Eph 2.4)
 - Remember his words (Col 3.16)
 - Remember his agony (Isa 53)
 - Remember his works (Judg 2.10-11)
 - Remember his resurrection/exaltation (Phil 2.10-11)

Institution of the Lord's Supper

- Proclamation: “You proclaim his death till he comes” (1 Cor 11.26)
- Remembering breeds worship (cf. Rev 5.8-13)
- Q: What are we remembering and then worshipping...
 - Ourselves...our friendships?
 - Our social support network?
 - Our form and practice?
 - Our size or service or offerings?
 - Our consistency or regularity?
 - Our collective or individual gifts?
 - Our tastes and preferences?

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