

**Text: Exodus 12:-13; Matthew 26:17,26-29**

**Title: “Are You Covered?” Pt.2**

**ILLUSTRATION** – One of the most important works of art in history is Leonardo da Vinci’s “The Last Supper.” Around the year 1500 da Vinci painted this on the wall of a convent in Milan, Italy. It represents Jesus’ Last Supper with His disciples as they observed the Passover on the night before He was crucified. I’ve always thought it was unusual that da Vinci depicted them like they were sitting at a dining room table in someone’s Italian villa. Of course, the setting of Jesus’ last supper with His disciples in observance of the Passover was in a borrowed room where they sat (reclined) maybe on cushions around a low table. Matthew in his Gospel tells us...

**Matthew 26:17 - On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”**

Again, this is the night that Jesus was betrayed and arrested. The next day He would be crucified for the sins of the world. Now Jesus is preparing to eat the Passover meal with His disciples. Remember last week we talked about the Passover. Passover for the Jews was both an historic event and a yearly celebration.

The historic event of Passover is described in Exodus 12, so let’s turn there once again to remember what happened. It is integrally connected with what Jesus was doing with His disciples on the night before He was crucified. It was integrally connected to what Jesus would accomplish in His death upon the Cross. In Exodus God is about to deliver His people from their bondage in Egypt. They would be set on their way that night to escape the Egyptians and to begin their journey through the desert to possess the Promised Land of Canaan. On this fateful night God is not only delivering Israel, but He is also judging the Egyptians for their sinful idolatry. Remember God unleashed 10 waves of judgments (plagues) upon the land of Egypt. The last one was the killing of the firstborn sons of every family in Egypt. But God has plans to spare Israel from this judgment. He makes a way of escape available to them so that death will not come upon their firstborn sons. Here’s how they were to prepare:

**READ EXODUS 12:3-7,12-13**

You see, God is in the process of delivering and redeeming His people from the bondage of Egypt. As He does so He also takes complete responsibility for providing for the needs of His people. He will provide...

- Forgiveness – Blood on the doorposts
- Freedom – delivered from the life of slaves
- Food – unleavened bread for the journey and manna later
- Finances – jewelry given to them by Egyptians
- Family – God calls them a new congregation
- Future – the Promised Land

God in delivering Israel had every need covered. Through all of this God is saying to His people, “I’ve got you covered. You can trust me.”

And there's a powerful picture of Christ and the Christian life in all of this. For you see as we put our trust in Christ to redeem and deliver us, He has us covered. We can certainly trust Him for forgiveness of our sins, but for much more.

**Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?**

So we trust Christ for our forgiveness, freedom, food, finances, family and our future.

So as Christ observed the Passover with His disciples He was leading them to remember a historic event. But God used this historic event to establish a yearly celebration.

**Exodus 12:14 - “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.**

And it would become one of the most important celebrations for the nation of Israel, helping them to remember the redemption and deliverance that God provided for them. So God tells the people through Moses, “What I do for you tonight in delivering you from the bondage of Egypt I want you to reenact and celebrate every year. I don't want you to ever forget what I did for you.” In Exodus 12:17 God tells them that every year the Day of Passover would begin a seven day festival called the “Feast of Unleavened Bread.” As they left Egypt that night they were to bake bread without leaven (yeast). Why? They would depart so quickly that the bread dough would not even have time to rise. And this would be remembered in the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Again, God didn't want them forgetting all that He had done for them in delivering them from bondage. He had literally saved them, and they belonged to Him ... they were His people.

Now we fast-forward about 1500 years to the night when Jesus gathered with His disciples to celebrate the Passover.

**Matthew 26:17 - On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”**

So Jesus will share the Passover meal with His disciples. And the amazing thing is that in doing this He will show them that no more Passover lambs will have to be sacrificed. The Passover in Exodus was intended to point them to its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ. For you see Jesus is the Lamb of God...

### **1. SELECTED FOR US (Luke 9:35)**

Just like the Jews were to select a lamb which would be an offering for the household, God selected His Son Jesus Christ to be an offering to cover us. Remember at the Transfiguration the disciples who were with Jesus heard...

**Luke 9:35 - A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”**

Jesus is the Lamb of God selected for us but also...

## 2. SPOTLESS FOR US (I Peter 1:18-20)

Remember the Jews were to pick not just any lamb. They were to pick one that was perfect. Why? The lamb would be an offering. The best must be given.

**1 Peter 1:18-19 - For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God selected for us, spotless for us and...

## 3. SACRIFICED FOR US (I Corinthians 5:7)

Moses told the households to put their animals to death as a sacrifice for each household. And God takes responsibility for delivering us. He put to death His one and only Son for our sins.

**1 Corinthians 5:7b - For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.**

So Christ was selected for us, spotless for us, and sacrificed for us as...

## 4. A SUBSTITUTE FOR US (I Peter 2:24)

In Exodus the lamb was killed and its blood was put around the doors of the homes of the Israelites. So when God came through to judge Egypt by killing the firstborn sons He would see the blood of the lamb and pass over them. Those households were covered and protected by the blood of the lamb.

**1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.**

So Jesus Christ died at Passover as the Lamb selected by God for us, spotless for us, sacrificed for us as a substitute for us. So Jesus died in our place. God's judgment didn't pass over Jesus on the Cross so that His judgment could pass over those of us who put our trust in Him.

So as Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples He was changing the picture and establishing a new celebration for His people. In Exodus God, in delivering the Israelites from Egypt formed a new community. In the New Testament, in providing deliverance through the death of Christ on the Cross, God formed a new community called the church. That old community had a meal that reminded them of their deliverance ... the Passover. Now the new community that God formed (the church) has a meal that reminds us of our deliverance ... the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a time to look back on what Jesus did for you when He died for your sins ... to look back on the day when you put your faith in Christ and followed Him in believer's baptism. So we invite all who have put their trust in Christ and been baptized through immersion to share in the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a time to look back, but also a time to look in. The Bible tells us to examine our hearts before we take the elements of the Lord's Supper. Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Have you offended someone and not made it right? Is there a sinful attitude or habit you haven't repented of and forsaken? Do it now.

The Lord's Supper is a time to look back, to look in and to look ahead. Listen to how Jesus described this in...

**READ Matthew 26:26-29.**

Now let's prepare to remember Christ as we share together in the Lord's Supper.

Are you covered?