

Last Supper Re-enactment Preparation & Script

Please read the background in the Bible:

Old Testament Passover

Exodus 12: 1-27

Lev 23: 4-8

Deut 16: 1-8

New Testament -- Jesus Last Supper

Matthew 26: 14-30

Note:

Judas' role

What happens last after the meal

The Bread Blessing

The Cup Blessing

The reference to covenant

The time of day of the meal

Mark 14: 10-31

Note:

Passover preparation by a specific number

The Clandestine pre-arrangements

The mention of the guestroom (Greek: *Kataluma*)

The prediction of Peter's denial

Luke 22: 1-38

Note:

The names of those sent to prepare

Additional information in 22:15-18 with added cup

The record of the dispute about the greatest

Prediction of Peter's denial comes at the Table

John 13: 1-38

Note: Actually Last Supper discourse continues through John 17

Footwashing -- what explains Peter's refusal? Who should have done the footwashing?

Was Judas present for the footwashing?

Who was **reclining** next to Jesus, mentioned explicitly in the text?

Note Peter's signaling. To whom?

What details does John add concerning the sharing of the piece of bread?

How can the confusion among the disciples about what Jesus said to Judas be explained?

Note again the inclusion of the prediction of Peter's denial in the conversation at the table.

As the people arrive...

SHARE THE TRADITIONAL GREETING

Give example: Hand on forehead bow slightly

"Peace be unto you" --hand on forehead bowing
"Unto you peace" (same inverted)

Hands on shoulders of each guest as they arrive.

Kiss of greeting
Cheek to cheek on each side

Number of Greetings -- Gift of Hospitality

Animals in houses with caves underneath -- incense
Washing ceremonies
Anointing oil

First century Passover required only 3 meal components:

1. Unleavened bread
2. Bitter herbs
3. Lamb

Lamb not required today--because Temple has been destroyed and no sacrifices. However, Jews do put shank bone on the plates.

Most people could not afford a full lamb.

Most households are basically vegetarian. Eggs and fish eaten.

Sop (a type of stew) was made from a little lamb bone in order to feed more people. Bread was put into the *sop* making little sandwiches.

Bitter herbs a reminder of the bitterness of the bondage in Egypt.

Unleavened bread -- no time to let bread rise in escape from Egypt. What leaven does to bread (puffs it up) so pride does to people. The rabbis say not to have leaven because it is a symbol of sin.

Wine was not an official part of the Passover meal in the time of Jesus, but as the Gospels plainly show there was wine at the table.

Today there are four cups of wine in the Passover meal:

1. The Cup of Blessing
2. The Cup of the Plagues
(little finger in wine and take a drop for each of the Plagues.)
3. The Cup of Redemption
4. The Cup of Praise

There are inferences in the Gospel that these were used in the Passover meals of Jesus.

1. Jesus blessed the cup and bread
2. Jesus did not do the Plagues -- or at least not recorded
3. Jesus does the Cup of Redemption -- "This is my blood"
4. Jesus does the Cup of Praise -- sang song and went out

Beginning the meal

WASHING OF THE HANDS

Bowl is passed around and everyone would pour for the next person.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD

Hold bread with two hands to show honor and respect.
Raise bread as well as eyes toward heaven and say:

"Blessed are Thou O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth."

The way of saying AMEN is to take a piece of the bread and eat it. Put the bread back on the table, fill cups.

Raise the cup with two hands also to show honor and respect --

"Blessed are Thou O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who brings forth fruit of the vine."

To say AMEN, take a drink.

When eating the meal you say, "Please pass the (item)."

The response as the item is passed is, ***"You do me honor."***

It is an honor for you to serve the one who makes the request.

To show you are a special friend you offer your food to them.

To show you are ***especially intimate and close***, when they are about to put food in their mouth you take their hand and put that food in your mouth.

Encourage those present to go ahead and eat

You may begin to eat whatever you see.

Dip with bread or may use a carrot, onion, celery...

Explain some of the items on the table:

Eggs (suffering and newness)

Ground apples (applesauce), chopped nuts, cinnamon, wine and honey -- *Haroseth*
(looks like mud, very sweet, a reminder of the terrible mud mortar slaves had to make in Egypt under bondage)

Saltwater -- the Red Sea

Bitter herbs --celery, onions, radishes, carrots -- straight from OT narrative

Olives

Variety of nuts

Dried fruit -- apricots, figs, pomegranate and dates

Wine -- 3 parts water to 1 part wine -- no yeast to remain alive

COMMUNAL NAPKIN is put on right shoulder. Lower part wet.

Wipe hands on it. Dry hands on dry part. This circulates during the meal.

Jesus possibly having meal in an Essene Community. (gate, man carrying water, furnished upper room)

1. Chronology: Tuesday, according to solar calendar
2. Meal prepared by Peter and John
Man carrying water-hospice (kataluma)

PASSOVER LAST SUPPER

Always eaten inside the walls of Jerusalem

Shoes on at Passover OT command

Recline at table, lean on left elbow, eat with right hand (left used for *facilities*)
3 sided reclining tables (triclinean) U-shaped

The shape and placement of the Table

Before entering room must ask which one of them is the greatest.

Three tables--Big-Wig Table, So-So Table and No-Wig Table

No one sat inside the "U". The servant's job was to go to the middle to serve the people.

At Passover, men, women, children all together

Custom: Seats to the right and left of rabbi, king, etc. were for the most important followers of that person.

The Arrangement of the Disciples at the Last Supper

Judas was given the seat of honor -- the most important place at the table that night.
(Offered *sop* by Jesus -- to show acceptance and forgiveness)

Peter sat the end -- the servant's position (to serve and wash feet).

There was a time for foot washing during the meal. Since Peter would not wash the feet, Jesus did it. Peter feels guilty. (That's adds to his petulance when Jesus comes to wash his feet.

Judas leaves before the end of the meal but after Jesus breaks the bread and passes cup.

The Cups during the meal are ritualized:

THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

"This is my Blood shed for you."

Taken after the meal.

First drink the cup then break the bread (last thing to be eaten.)

"As often as you take this bread, and drink this cup..."

As often as you have Passover, take the Cup of Redemption and break the bread in order to be reminded of the death of Jesus.

The significance here is against the background of the original significance of Passover for the Jewish Nation. What was redemption at the Passover? It was the blood of the sacrificed lamb stricken on the lintel of the Hebrew houses in Egypt. Now Jesus claims that the drinking of this cup makes him the Passover Lamb of God whose blood received in communion marks his own as God's because he is about to give his life.
What arrogance -- if it's not true!

JESUS GOES TO THE CROSS

Dies at 3 PM, the same time the lamb is being sacrificed in the temple
Hyssop branch to Jesus -- hyssop branch to the Lamb's blood and the lamb's blood to the doorpost -- see Exodus 12:22 and compare with John 19: 29
Jesus is the sacrificial lamb (his blood on our heart, the Angel of Death passes over)
Jesus prays at the Garden of Gethsemane
Judas' kiss
Goes to the cross and Dies
Rises from the dead on the third day

Peter and Judas compared and contrasted as the focal application point for these Re-enactments

Following the Resurrection Jesus rubs it in to Peter.

Jesus fed Peter, asked him - Peter if you love me, feed my sheep, Peter, if you love me, feed my lambs...Peter, if you love me, you will have meal covenants with others as I have had with you.

What is the difference between Peter and Judas?

They both betrayed the Lord.

Judas hung himself.

Peter accepted forgiveness. The only difference was the ability of the individual to receive acceptance and forgiveness.

The Significance of Table Fellowship

Two people with intimacy eat together
(Become friends)

-David's psalm (Thou preparest a table...)

-Prodigal son (brother did not eat)

-Jesus eats with tax collectors and prostitutes

-Gospel is insistent on Jesus eating in Resurrection (eats to show physical Resurrection; every time Jesus eats with disciples it is to show acceptance and forgiveness)

Peter wants to go back to being a fisherman

(Luke 5) Jesus call out at the Sea of Galilee asking if they caught anything and suggest they cast their nets on the other side. There is a great catch.

Peter -- "My Lord and my Master...."

Jesus is cooking a fish.

Psalm 23, for example, Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies....

Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me.

It is necessary to receive acceptance and forgiveness -- that is what the Christian message is all about.

Peter could eat with Jesus, Judas could not

Good or bad things done may be forgiven -- are you willing to come before Jesus and sup and receive acceptance and forgiveness under his lordship?

To give your heart and life and soul to him under his lordship and to be able to receive acceptance and forgiveness?

Before Passover meal was over, Jesus sang a song before going out: Psalms 115-118.

Stand up, hold hands, prayer.

Hymns sung at Jesus' Last Supper

Mark and Matthew record that the meal concludes with a hymn before they all depart for Gethsemane

The hymns sung would have been Psalms of ascent which include Psalms 115 and following through at least Psalm 130, except for 119.

The following paraphrases of Psalms 115-118 may be sung to the tune of
Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Psalm 115

Fear the Lord your help and shield, Alleluia.
Salvation He has revealed, Alleluia.
Bless the Lord, Oh Him adore, Alleluia,
From this time, forever more, Alleluia.

Psalm 116

You have save my life today, Alleluia,
Sacrifices could not pay, Alleluia.
Now my eyes have no more tears, Alleluia;
You have taken all my fears, Alleluia!

Psalm 117

All ye nations, praise the Lord, Alleluia;
All ye peoples, Him adore, Alleluia.
Grant His love, His steadfast love; Alleluia;
From His faithfulness above, Alleluia!

Psalm 118

Israel must always pray, Alleluia;
Let the house of Aaron say, Alleluia.
Raise your voice who fear the Lord, Alleluia;
Sing ye heavens with one accord, Alleluia!

COVENANTS OF THE BIBLE

Adam & Eve - not to eat the fruit

Noah - rainbow

Abraham – flaming torch and smoking pot

Moses - laws

David - priestly/kingly dynasty

Ruth & Boaz - marriage contract

TABLE 11. COMPARISON OF THE (QUMRAN) SOLAR CALENDAR AND THE LUNAR CALENDAR FOR DATING EVENTS IN THE PASSION NARRATIVE

Day	Gospel Happening	<i>Nisan</i> Date
Tues. day →	preparation for paschal meal (Mark 14:12–16)	solar 14 lunar 11
Tues. eve → night → (Tu./Wed.) Wed. day →	Last Supper paschal meal (Mark 14:17–18; Luke 22:15) eaten before (lunar) 15th Nisan (John 13:1) Gethsemane; arrest of Jesus Inquiry before Annas (Mark 14:53a; John 18:13) Peter's denials; mockery by servants (Luke 22:54–65) Sent to Caiaphas (John 18:24); 1st Sanhedrin session (Luke 22:66–71) Mockery of Jesus by authorities (Mark 14:65)	solar 15 (paschal meal) lunar 12
night → (Wed./Th.) Th. morn. → Th. P.M. →	(<i>Jesus in custody of high priest</i>) 2d Sanhedrin session (Mark 15:1a) Jesus taken to Pilate (Mark 15:1b; Luke 23:1) Opening of Pilate trial (Luke 23:2–5) Jesus taken to Herod (Luke 23:6–12) Return to Pilate and trial resumed (Luke 23:15ff.); adjournment	solar 16 lunar 13
night → (Th./Fri.) Fri. morn →	(<i>Jesus in Pilate's custody</i>) Pilate's wife's dream (Matt 27:19) Pilate trial resumed; Barabbas Pilate sentences Jesus (Mark 15:15) noon before Passover (John 19:14) (Jewish priests slay lambs in Temple precincts) Crucifixion, death, burial by Joseph	solar 17 lunar 14
Fri. eve. → Sat. morn. →	Jesus in the tomb Jews eat their paschal meal (John 18:28b) Priests and Pharisees ask Pilate to guard sepulcher (Matt 27:62–64)	solar 18 lunar 15 (paschal meal)

From Raymond Brown, *The Death of the Messiah*, p. 1367