

Thursday, April 9 ~ Festival of Unleavened Bread ~ Mark 14:12-25

As I read this passage, a passage we know well, the Festival of Unleavened Bread caught my attention. During this 7-day festival, yeast was removed from the home, a tedious task. Yeast represents sin. When yeast is added to flour and water, it blooms and cannot be removed.

As we are born into a sinful world, we cannot do anything to remove us completely of sin, only the blood of Jesus can cleanse us. Think of what it must have felt like to be in the presence of Jesus during the Last Supper, knowing that someone sitting with you, or possibly even you, would betray Jesus. Yet, Jesus loves them all, even His betrayer, and even you and me, so much that He dies to save us from our sins. Let's reflect on that during this Lenten season, and not let our sins bloom, but grow with the love and compassion of Jesus and share that love and compassion with others who are hurting or broken.

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The Last Supper

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹³So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

¹⁹They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

²⁰"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

²³Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴"This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. ²⁵"Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Footnotes:

- a. [Mark 14:24](#) Some manuscripts *the new*