



ENCOUNTER

Toward Sacrifice
Shane Philip
March 26, 2017

Discussion Notes
The Crossing Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

We are making a transition on our journey through the Gospel of Mark. While the first half of Mark centers on Identity - Who Jesus Is, the second half is about His Purpose. Jesus' ultimate purpose is to give His life on the cross. We are getting up close and personal with the life of Christ on this path that has the potential to change our lives. God is offering us hope, change and life. Remember, the closer we get to Him, the more our lives will change.

SCRIPTURE¹

Mark 14:12-19 On 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?" So 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. Say 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?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While 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." They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

John 13:23-25 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Mark 14:20-26 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The 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." While 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." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "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." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Psalms 41:9 Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.

Exodus 6:6-7 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.'"

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.

¹ All scripture is NIV unless otherwise noted.



OBSERVATION

It is Passover week in Jerusalem and Jewish people from all over the world have traveled here to remember the miraculous redeeming of God's people from the land of Egypt 1300 years earlier. They came to sacrifice unblemished lambs, just as they did in Egypt, because lambs' blood, placed on the door posts of Hebrew homes, saved the lives of their eldest sons and caused the Pharaoh to let them go.

APPLICATION

God's plan for humanity's salvation has culminated at this time and place and what was about to happen was a mirror image metaphor of the original Passover. His Son, Jesus, was to be the sacrificial lamb, shedding His blood on a wooden cross, which would pay the price for the sins of all mankind.

Question: When you realize that God planned perfectly the sacrifice of Jesus on Passover Day so that the people would understand the parallel to their people's redemption 1300 years before, how does this awareness affect your faith?

Sitting down to enjoy a meal together is an act of unity in many families today. Jesus and His twelve disciples shared a Passover meal together and it would be their last meal together before Jesus died. He still had much to explain to them.

Question: Tell us about your family mealtimes? What do you like about them? What would you change? Jesus introduced a new covenant (contract) for believers in the same way God initiated the conditional Abrahamic, Mosaic and Davidic covenants of old. And now, the Messiah Himself, was introducing a New Covenant that said, if we believe that He is the Son of God who came to die for our sins, we, both Jews and Gentiles, can be free from the penalty of sin. We are now given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift. Just as Passover was designed to remind the Israelites of redemption from slavery, the New Covenant was to remind us of redemption from our sins by the sacrifice of our perfect Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Question: What makes up your part of the covenant with Jesus? What have you sacrificed for Him? Then Jesus breaks bread and tells His disciples that this represents His body which He will sacrifice for forgiveness of sins. He then pours wine for them which represents the blood He will pour out for us. Every time we take communion, we are to remember what Jesus did for us out of love so we can inherit everlasting life with Him. Communion is about remembering our redemption.

Question: Why is communion important to you? When did you make His sacrifice personal for you?

Question: What was your most significant communion moment?

Jesus makes us four promises represented by four cups of wine: "I will bring you out of bondage; I will free you from slavery and bitterness; I will redeem you; I will take you as my own people and I will be your God."

Question: Which of these promises do you need most? Why?

Remember to look back to Jesus' death, forward to His return, inward to examine ourselves, and outward at the unity we have together. What connects us is what Jesus did for us. We are all part of the Body of Christ regardless of our ethnicity, race, cultures, ages, intellects, wealth, or sins.

Question: What do you recall about the moment you accepted Jesus as your Savior?

Question: Who are you inviting to The Crossing for Easter services?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to provide a pathway back to You through His sacrifice and forgiveness. It is a gift of love and we are forever thankful. In Jesus' name. Amen.