

LMC Sunday 8/3/15 Nafe Stanbridge "JESUS - THE PASSOVER LAMB"

Big Idea: The mighty wrath of God which we deserve, Jesus took on the cross. He is our Passover Lamb diverting God's Judgment, but not only that - his blood starts the new covenant - This all means forgiveness of sins for all who believe. So repent, take comfort and don't take it for granted.

Intro

Morning, for those who haven't met me yet my name is Nathan, and I'll be bringing the word to us the next 2 weeks while Liam is away, and we will just be continuing through the gospel of Mark as we have been all term. Today we are looking at the last supper, the very last meal Jesus had with his disciples before his death. And it's from this meal and Jesus words that we take the Lord's Supper or communion which we will be taking after the service. And Jesus shows us here clearly and profoundly what his death is going to achieve, and how that will change history and how we relate to God forever. It's my hope today that your appreciation for God's plan in Jesus will grow, you will be more amazed and thankful at God's plan. And as we take the Lord's Supper at the end of the service it will mean more to you than it ever has before.

[Please pray with me as I ask God for help.](#)

Hater's story

I don't know if you have heard the saying at the moment "don't be a hater." It's used to describe someone who says something negative about something or someone. If you're a Taylor Swift fan you will know in one of her songs 'shake it off' she says, "haters gonna hate", meaning - you will always have negative people in this life who are going to hate, but don't worry about them, don't listen to them. Our society at the moment is very down on being negative. Very down on saying some things are wrong. Doesn't like it when people have anything to say that's not positive. People want you to be positive all the time. And most of the time that's good... but sometimes it's good and necessary to be negative.

For example, if I love my wife, then I will hate anything which will harm her. I love her I care for her, so I have negative feeling toward anything which will cause her harm. If you love kids, you will hate child abuse. And it's the same with God, God is a God of love, he loves his people, which means he hates it when happen to them. He loves justice so he hates injustice. He loves holiness, so he hates sin. But this is not popular to hear about in a society anything negative and someone is labelled a hater. And so it's not politically correct to talk about the judgment of God, his wrath and Judgment. Sometimes people like to put God in a box, and just want to view him the way they want to. But to understand his love, it is necessary to understand his fierce wrath, which is to be feared. And we will see that at the cross we see both the wrath and love of God combined.

1. Jesus is our Passover Lamb - so that God's Judgment passes over us

Let's get into the passage now - In the passage we just had read out. 14:12 it said "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." Now as we continue on in the gospel of Mark we find out It is the eve of Jesus death. The very next day Jesus will be dead on the cross. Now is this just a random historical fact that Jesus death was on the weekend of the Passover meal? Like this year my wedding anniversary is on the same weekend as the Passover meal. Now of course that's just a coincidence, but what about Jesus death being the same time?

I want to suggest it is highly significant. -It's necessary to understand What Jesus did on the cross.

Just so you know where I'm heading today there are 3 parts - 1. Jesus the Passover lamb. 2. Jesus blood starts the new covenant. 3. What does that mean for us?

The Passover in O.T.

So to see what this Passover feast is all about come to Exodus with me. Let me just set the scene. God's people are in slavery and they cry out to God in pain. And God loves his people and he hears there cry. So he sends Moses to rescue them, to tell Pharaoh to let his people go. But

Pharaoh refuses and doesn't listen. So God sends the Plague of blood all the water in Egypt turns to blood, all the fish die and no one is able to drink the water. 7 Days Pass, surly Pharaoh will listen now, but he doesn't so there is a plague of frogs, come into his palace and everyone's bedroom and ovens, worse than the cane toads in QLD. Pharaoh get sick of it so he says take away the frogs and I will let the people go. So the frogs went, but he didn't let the people go and hardened his heart. So the God sent a plague of gnats, then a plague of flies. Again he said he would let them go, but the flies went and Pharaoh still doesn't let them go. There was a plague amongst their livestock, then boils, then a plague of hail, then Locusts, then darkness. But still he would not let the people go. So then God sends the last and the worst of the plagues. God loves his people, he is angry they are abused as slaves, so he is going to come in fierce judgment.

The Plague of the firstborn. Exodus 11:4-6. ⁴ So Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt.

⁵ Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.

⁶ There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt--worse than there has ever been or ever will be again.

Now this is horrific judgment, great mourning, if you knew it was coming you would be freaking out. If you're the oldest in the family like me. You would be gone. But there is a way of escaping this judgment.

So God gives some instructions to Moses. If you have your Bible there flip over to Exodus 12:3 and 12:6-7 and 12:12-14.

³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.

⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.

⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

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.

If you took the blood of a Lamb and painted it over you door. The Judgement of God would pass over your house and you would be saved. That's why this meal was called the Passover. They were saved from God's judgment by the blood of the lamb. And when they ate the Passover meal they were to remember how God had Judged Egypt and passed over Israel. So often try and tame God, but he is to be feared. He is mighty and he is scary. But God says to the Israelites, every house where you put the blood of the Lamb above it I will Passover that house. My judgment will not come into that house. The Passover celebrates when Gods people were freed from Egypt and his Judgment passed over there houses.

Jesus shows us the Passover points to him

So now back to the gospel of Mark. It's about the year 34 AD, and the 14th day of the first month, it's the day which they are to remember the Passover. And like good Jews they do. _Now remember what God had said to remember in Passover remembering how Gods judgment passed over Israel - look at verse 22 with me. ²² "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; **(LET US REMEMBER THE PASSOVER)**." Does anyone's have a different translation to mine, say something different? He doesn't say that does he? He says take it "this is my body". What has just happened? This is a feast God gave the Jews, to remember the event in Egypt, And Jesus tells them to remember him, we are not going to

remember and celebrate the Passover, we are going to remember and celebrate me with this feast. The bread symbolizes my body.

The very next day he will die on the cross, taking the full wrath and judgment of God for the sins of the world. Jesus is showing us he fulfils the Old Testament law, he fulfils the Old Testament tradition. That Passover lamb was always meant to be a sign that would point to him the promised messiah. He is the ultimate Passover lamb. And its only by trusting in him that anyone will be saved from the wrath of God.

Now we read about God in the Old Testament and he is scary, he is to be feared. And this is the same God we have today. God doesn't change. And his Judgment is real. There are some awful awful things happening in the world right now, absolutely awful when you watch the news, and see what's happening in other countries and how people need to flee for their lives, but it will not be as bad as the judgment which is to come. The Eternal Judgement, Jesus talks about.

As it says in Romans 3:23 we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. No one is guiltless. Your sins might be obvious, like murder or adultery or stealing, or less obvious like lying or cheating or envy. Or not giving God the credit he is due. But at the end of the day we all fall short of the glory of God and deserve his judgement. God loves holiness, righteousness, rightness, so he hates sin. There is no such thing as a good person who has never sinned against our holy God. All will face his judgment. Unless we too are covered by the blood of the Lamb.

So we see Jesus is the Passover Lamb, he allows Gods judgement to Passover us.

2. Jesus blood is the blood of the new covenant.

Jesus death not only covers us from Gods judgment, it also starts the new covenant. Now please have a look at verse 24 with me here. ⁴ "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.

(Mark 14:24-25 NIV)

Now what does Jesus mean when he says that? He is changing the meaning of the Passover meal, but what does he mean?

Covenant, It's not a word we use much today. But it is such an important word to understand to get the bible. Every bible that you look at is split into 2 parts, Old Testament and New Testament. Testament is the Latin word for covenant - Old Covenant and New Covenant. Our bible is divided. Now the word covenant we don't really use in our language today. The best word to describe it is probably the word promise, but its more formal than just a promise, it's like a contract as well. The best example we have today is the marriage covenant. When you marry someone you enter a covenant with them. You not only make your promises but you also sign the paper, its legal as well as personal.

So what Jesus is saying this is my blood of the promise/contract which is poured out for many.

Old Covenant

Well to understand that I think it's helpful to have a look at the last covenant that God made. This was the book of the law including the 10 commandments, God had said if you live by these things I will be your God. And the Passover feast that was a part of the old covenant.

Exodus 24:7-8 ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." and blood of the covenant is basically likes signature on the contract.

So how can Jesus say this meal is to remember him and this wine is his blood of the covenant? Is that not going against Gods old covenant, is that not a contradiction? No because it was in God's plan.

New covenant coming

As the prophet Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 31:31-33³¹ "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, "declares the LORD.

³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

So about 600 years before Jesus, God says he is making a new covenant. Why? Because Israel had broken the old covenant, broken the contract as God says. They did not keep God's laws, they were sinful. As we are too, we all fall short of the glory of God. God was angry at this. But in his grace, in his love and kindness he said he would make a way for people to not face his judgment. He will make a new covenant.

Jesus blood starts the new covenant

And 600 years later God makes that covenant. And he does it through his son Jesus. His death is going to be the blood of the new covenant. A new promise, a new contract. This is huge, the cross is huge. Forgiveness is found in Jesus, he is our Passover Lamb. God's wrath, God's anger, God's hate. Has been poured out on Jesus in Judgement. Just as anyone who had the blood of the lamb above their door in Exodus was saved because God's judgment would Passover them, so it is with us. Anyone whose trust is in Jesus and what he has done on the cross, is covered by his blood, that phrase is an allusion to the Passover. Protected by him. This is the new covenant God has made.

3. So what does that mean for us today?

Four points of application: 1 Repent, 2 Security, 3 Take warning, 4 No longer under the old covenant.

Repent

We deserve that great judgement and we have been spared if we repent. This means there is no one on the planet who will be saved from God's wrath aside from being covered by the blood of Jesus. If you're here today and think you are ok with God because you are a good bloke or a good person, you are going to face the wrath of God unless you repent and turn to Jesus. If you are here today and feel terrible and terrified because of what you have done and think there is no hope. Well there is. There is hope for you found in Jesus. But you must repent and take shelter in the blood of Jesus, his protection. Or you will surely face the wrath of God. If you want to do that today, please speak to me after the service and I would love to talk you through it, or talk to anyone else here.

Security

This means there is no one on this planet who has done something so evil which God will not forgive because of the punishment which Jesus took. Jesus suffered on the cross the full wrath of God. He suffered the punishment for murderers and adulterers, rapists and paedophiles, back stabbers and betrayers. Those who have insulted and mocked God. Those who have lied and cheated. There is no one too far from the reach of God. The drug trafficker on death row is secure, saved by the blood of Christ. If you doubt if you are saved you need to ask one question. Do I trust in Jesus and what he has done, if yes you are secure.

We are no longer under the Old Covenant

We are no longer under the old covenant. Jesus has started a new one, God's new one. Living for God is no longer about making sacrifices, about trying to keep the 10 commandments, trying to be good enough, we failed, living for God is about trusting in his son Jesus and what he has

done. He has taken the punishment. We don't follow the Passover or observe those laws anymore because we follow Jesus - we now remember his death and resurrection.

Warning - Application from Hebrews

But do not take his grace for granted. God is to be feared and revered, we cannot put God in a box, we cannot presume on his grace. You cannot mock God and think you can go on living in rebellion against him and say you believe and it will all be fine. Final warning from Hebrews 10:26-29 ²⁶ if we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,

²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

This is the person who is comfortable in their sin. The person who is addicted to pornography but just excuses it and won't get help. The person who says Jesus is their king but is happy to gossip because it makes them popular. The person who is dishonest on their tax and in business for more money. The person who won't forgive someone else because they say that person's sin is too great.

These are all forgivable sins, but this person deliberately keeps on sinning. I picked this passage, because it also refers to the blood of the covenant.

²⁸ Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

²⁹ How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

(Hebrews 10:26-29 NIV)

Jesus has done all this, all this, do we dare insult this almighty God's grace. Is it ever too late? As long as it is today, and you can repent, do so. Pharos's heart grew harder and harder. Don't let your heart grow hard. If you feel conviction repent before it's too late. Let us be on guard and take warning that we do not insult the Spirit of grace.

1. Jesus is the Passover Lamb, 2 Jesus blood starts the new covenant. 3 What does it mean for us? Repent, Security, Not under Old covenant, take warning!

[Let me close in prayer.](#)

Let us take communion together

-Before taking communion, examine your heart, where are you at with God. Do you need to repent, do so; do not insult the Spirit of grace. Do you need to ask for forgiveness? If you feel convicted you may decide to do these things first before you take it now.

'As we take the bread let us remember Jesus death for us, our Passover lamb, taking the wrath of God for us, his body was broken that we do not need to face that horrible judgment. Take and eat remember his body.

As we take the cup let us celebrate in our heart the new covenant which we are now under. God put his laws in our hearts, and we can now approach him directly in prayer. Oh how great our God is. Take and drink remembering Jesus blood of the new covenant.