

Consecration Service

Communion and Foot Washing

i. Introduction

1. We are going to take a focused look at some of the events that happened on the evening of the Last Supper. At that gathering, Jesus commanded some things to be repeated as a memorial to Him.
2. The Last Supper likely took place on the day before Jesus was crucified as He and His disciples gathered in an upper room to celebrate the Passover meal.
3. At that meal, Jesus gave some very important teachings/commands, and we will focus on three of them.

ii. The new commandment

1. Jesus gave a “new commandment” on that Thursday evening before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion:

John 13:34 A new commandment [Latin mandatum] I give unto you, That ye love

one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

2. Jesus was about to demonstrate the greatest degree of love ever shown by giving His sinless life as a sacrifice for our sins.
3. The new commandment, the first of three He gave at that supper, was that we are to love each other in the same way He loved us. That is something to think on. I must ask, how do I rate on that scale?
4. And if we obey that command, He said it will be the greatest soul-winning principle ever practiced:
John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
5. **When we love each other greatly, people see Jesus greatly in us.**

III. Communion

A. Background - Passover

1. Again, what we call The Last Supper was the final Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples.
2. Passover was and is a celebration meal of Israel's deliverance from the 10th and final plague, the death of the firstborn in Egypt. The night of the 10th plague also celebrated the end of 400 years they had lived in slavery.
3. Passover celebrates the promise that God would protect the Israelites if they would slay a lamb and smear its blood on the door posts of their homes.
4. The meal consisted of roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs, which they ate with an expectation that something was about to happen:

Exodus 12:11-13

11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in

haste: it is the Lord's passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt [Pharaoh and his first-born son were considered gods of Egypt, the son of Re, the sun god] I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

*13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.***

5. Future generations were commanded to participate in Passover to remember this night and to teach it to their posterity.
- B. Jesus celebrated Passover
 1. Passover is the first day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. We read about Jesus and His disciples preparing for the feast:

Mark 14:12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

2. The disciples found a large upper room and prepared the meal.
3. When Jesus celebrated this particular Passover, He gave it a new meaning so that His church would continue to celebrate it.

[slide] New Testament words for it:

communion [fellowship, participation] (1 Cor 10:16), the Lord's table (1 Cor 10:21), and the Lord's supper (1 Cor 11:20). It is also called by some the sacrament of Eucharist, which means "thankful."

1 Cor 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

- IV. What does it mean to take communion?

- A. Jesus established the purpose
1. Look at a description of that meal Jesus shared with His disciples:
Matthew 26:26-28
*26 And as they were eating, Jesus **took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.***
*27 And he **took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;***
*28 For **this is my blood of the new testament [covenant], which is shed for many for the remission of sins.***
 2. In the original Passover meal, part of the Old Covenant, a slain lamb and its blood were the centerpiece of that meal which removed the plague of death. **Slain lambs were a key of the Old Covenant.**
 3. In this transitional Passover meal, now part of the New Covenant, Jesus said His body

and blood took the place of the sacrificial lamb because they removed the plague of sin. **Jesus is the key of the New Covenant.**

4. That is why Peter made this connection between the old traditions and Lamb:

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

5. Jesus fulfilled Passover by being the sacrificial lamb.

*1 Cor 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover** is sacrificed for us:*

- B. Do this in remembrance of me

1. At the last supper, Jesus' body (replacing the lamb) was symbolized by broken bread.

Jesus' blood (replacing the lamb's blood), was symbolized by the wine in the cup.

2. Communion is to remember Jesus' sacrifice for our sin, and observing it is the second command Jesus gave that day:

Luke 22:19-20

*19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this **do in remembrance of me.***

20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

3. 20 years later, the church was still participating in communion and recalling Jesus' broken body, His blood, and His death:

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

4. The church is to continue receiving communion until the Lord returns.

c. Be worthy

1. It is important, though, that we do not take communion unworthily. Paul spoke of some who were “*guilty of the body and blood of the Lord*” because, following their Roman and Greek culture, some in Corinth turned this holy feast into a drunken feast.

2. We should not take this lightly but take the time to examine our hearts so we are not holding to unrepented sin. Instead, we will partake with repentance.

1 Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup

3. And through repentance, remember how the precious blood of the Lamb washes our hearts:

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of

*the earth. Unto him that loved us, and
washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

Foot Washing – A Humble Act of Worship

I. Introduction

1. We have looked at two commands Jesus gave in the last supper setting: to love one another as I have love you; and do this (receive communion) in remembrance of me.
2. The third command Jesus spoke of was related to a common practice in their culture: washing one another's feet.
3. While this was simply a courtesy that a host offered to travelers, usually done by a servant, Jesus elevated it as something more that day.

II. At the Passover meal

1. At the conclusion of the Passover meal, in John 13, we see Jesus doing something unthinkable, and even embarrassing to His disciples—He took on the role of a common servant:

John 13:4 He [Jesus] riseth from supper, and

laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

2. Common custom should have included someone washing feet as they entered, but apparently, all 12 apostles walked past the water basin and towel, hoping someone else would take care of that servant's task.
3. It would appear that they preferred to put up with dirty feet during dinner rather than humble themselves to take on a servant's job.
4. But obviously, Jesus didn't have a problem with getting His hands dirty for the sake of serving others.
5. The apostles sat and watched with astonishment as Jesus washed 24 dirty feet.
John 13:5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6. Watching this humbling act apparently assaulted Peter's own pride. He felt too proud to do this himself, and he practically scolded Jesus for doing it:

John 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? [should You be doing this?]

7. Peter went further and rejected Jesus' offer of humble service:

John 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. ...

8. Peter had missed the point, and Jesus' was bold and to the point in response:

John 13:8... Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9. Hearing and seeing how determined Jesus was about it, Peter backed off:

John 13:9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10. Next, we see Jesus giving a third command that day, which is why we are doing this tonight:

John 13:12-17

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

*14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; **ye also ought** [have an obligation, duty] **to wash one another's feet.***

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

*17 If ye know these things, **happy** [blessed] **are ye if ye do them.***

11. In sum, Jesus communicated these points:

- a. I am your Master and Lord and I washed your feet
- b. You should do this to others because you are not greater than me
- c. You will find happiness if you do this.

12. The principle is summed up in:

Matthew 23:11-12

11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

III. Conclusion

1. The three new commandments that came out of that night are: (1) love one another as I have love you; (2) receive communion to remember my sacrifice, and; (3) take on a servant's heart and wash one another's feet as I have done to you.