**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 35 – Passover**

**Walking with Jesus through the gospel of Mark.**

**Right off the top – Mark 1:1 – The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah (Christos = anointed royal one - promised king), the Son of God. (God in flesh) This is the true story of THE KING**

**3 yrs with Jesus = now it’s the night before His Murder. He has been telling them it was going to happen; they didn’t believe it.**

**On their way to Jerusalem - Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to (implies prior existence) be served, but to serve, (assumes he had the right to be served) and to give his life as a ransom (proclaims his purpose to purchase our freedom, to be a payment, to be a substitute) for many.”**

**Jesus the ransom - substitute - payment - That sets him apart from every founder of every religion – they came to live / Jesus came to die - to sacrifice his life, to ransom.**

**His whole life is coming down to the next 24 hours.**

**It’s Thursday – That Day**

**Mark 14:12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, (writing to Romans he explains – it’s…) when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,**

**It was a week to celebrate Jewish independence and freedom. A time of celebration. Rome was on alert. A freedom holiday in a time when they did not have freedom.**

**It was highlighted by a celebration feast - Passover seder.**

**…his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” 13 And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. (Many believe Mark is that man with the water jar - Acts 2 says they met at Marks house) Follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ (already arranged??) 15 And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” 16 And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. (This is a large house and room – able to hold over a hundred people. Acts 2 = 120)**

* **God is always working behind the scenes**

**Jesus / God has been making plans without their knowledge. When you can’t see it – God is still at work!**

**It’s mid-day Thursday – they walk into town – get to house and prepare for dinner – by this time tomorrow Jesus will be dead.**

**It’s Thursday – That Night - they gathered for Passover.**

**Mark 14:17 And when it was evening, he came with the twelve.**

**The most painted picture of Christ life, few examples. \*\*\***

**They would have been reclining at a table 18” off the ground, sprawled out on pillows, shoes kicked off.**

**It was to become their last meal together (all 4 Gospels).**

**What does he want us to remember about that night?**

**Mark 14:17 And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?” (Is it me?? As they weighed their own heart, is it possible – I struggle sometimes? Humble and broken… Is it I?) 20 He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. (Doe! Proximity to Jesus shows relationship – a friend. If I saw Judas dip his bread, what would I think?)**

**In Middle Eastern culture, betraying a friend after eating a meal with him was and is regarded as the worst kind of treachery.**

**21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” (Judas stayed for dinner.)**

**The dinner was Passover Seder (order) Many symbols of the meal – but**

**3 Main Elements in the Passover Meal: 2 +1 = Won**

**Unleavened Bread – Wine - Fruit of the vine - Lamb meat.**

**Each part tells an important story about their freedom.**

**Mark 14:22 And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”**

**1st Part - Bread (unleavened) (flat bread)**

**When bread is made, fermented dough from a previous day is mixed with fresh flour - growing (fungus). The dough would rise - then baked.**

**Let’s go back - Exodus 13:6 For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD. (Festival of Unleavened bread) 8 on that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' (Eat it and remember God’s deliverance from Egypt)**

**The bread was to be unleavened (w/out yeast)**

**Why unleavened? Echo’s back to Egypt. When God delivered Israel, no time for bread to rise – take it unleavened.**

**Unleavened bread was a reminder of the bondage they left behind**

**The yeast (the bacteria) became a symbol of the sin & bondage.**

**But that night the bread took on a new meaning… He took the bread held it up and said, "See this, eat it - this is My body."**

**They did not understand what he was saying – yet?**

**Mark 14:23 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. 24 And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” (Speaking of His resurrection and ascension)**

**2nd Part – The Wine - Fruit of the Vine (Cup of grape juice)**

**When Jesus handed the cup to the disciples, they naturally would have thought of the blood of the Passover lamb.**

**Let’s go back to Egypt. Descendants of Abraham (Israel) had become slaves in bondage to Egypt four hundred years… God raises up Moses.**

**Let God’s people go! No! Plague. 9X, No! Started w/ water turning to blood, infestation of frogs, lice, flies, livestock epidemic, dying, boils / sores on people, hailstorms, plague of locus, darkness for 3 days… How much worse can it get?**

**Number 10 was a game changer (Exodus 11-12)**

**First born of every human and animal living will die! Why the 1st born? It is the first blessing. It represents family redemption and inheritance.**

**Plague 10: God instructed, pick unblemished male lamb, bring it inside home (imagine, has a name in 1 hour), on day 5 at sundown kill it, put its blood on top and sides of door. Then cook and eat all of it, leaving nothing, burn what you can’t eat.**

**Exodus 12:11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. (Have your shoes on – belts on - have your coats ready – by faith be ready to leave fast - This will be your future reset!) It is the Lord's Passover. (It is the Lord’s Passover – the Lord’s rescue)**

**AND - If they applied the blood and consumed the lamb – God will see the blood, and "pass over” their home.**

**Ex 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; (it is not a sign for God – God knows – this was an act of faith on their part) and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. 14 “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.**

**The fruit of the Vine was a reminder of the lamb’s blood on the door.**

**Jesus often refed to self as the vine – his blood is the fruit of the vine broken, crushed, and poured out.**

**Reclining w/ Jesus - Eat your body / drink your blood?**

**That is weird? Jesus, maybe you've had much wine??**

**Jesus was making himself the center of Passover! That story of freedom, this broken bread, this the blood – was always about me.**

**3rd Part - The Lamb (unblemished)**

**Interestingly the Lamb is not mentioned at their meal – because Jesus himself was the Lamb.**

**John the Baptizer knew it - John1:29 ...“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!**

**Peter the apostle knew it - 1 Peter 1:18 …you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.**

**Paul the apostles knew it - 1 Corinthians 5:7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.**

**Jesus is the Passover Meal! Do you see it?**

**Like that bread (that must beaten) – Jesus is the bread of life**

**John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”**

**Like that bread – Jesus is “unleavened” and without sin**

**Like that lamb – Jesus was the spotless perfect lamb (in every way)**

**Like that lamb – Jesus lived and bonded with them**

**Like the lamb - The power of Jesus blood that frees us from judgment**

**Ex 12:13 …when I see the blood, I will pass over you.**

**Like that lamb - The blood of Jesus is to be applied by faith individually**

**Each person was to participate – each door – representing the heart of an individual – no riding the coat tails.**

**Like the lamb – Jesus is to be fully consumed**

**Not in part – not a piece – not a single service – all of it!**

**John 6:53 Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.**

**Graphic words that are not about cannibalism – they shout the importance to consuming Christ and Christ consuming you.**

**It is not just head knowledge – but deep in you!**

**55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. (Real food – real drink)**

* **You’ll never be satisfied with anything or anyone else but Jesus**

**You can look - try goals, hobbies, education, money, drugs, alcohol, sorts, achievements, possessions, or people… all leave you empty.**

**Jesus says – I am the real food and the real drink.**

**No need to look any further – Jesus it what you’re looking for.**

**Drinking saltwater - Chewing gum, you’ll always need another.**

**John tells us that Jesus was literally crucified on Passover – John 19:14**

**That meal celebrated for 2000 years was to be fulfilled in 12 hours.**

**The gospels tell us also that night Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit, prayed for them, washed their feet - and judas left early to tell them where Jesus was heading - Mount of Olives.**

**Mark 14:26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**

**Jesus sang worship (Traditionally Psalms 113–118, Hallel Psalms). Imagine hearing Jesus sing. On the night before his death – knowing what he was to endure, He sang… to the Father.**

**Those worship Psalms were on his lips as he walked to his arrest.**

* **Like Jesus – knowing God is in control enables us to sing in our darkest hours.**

**The events that follow that meal have caused more debates and fueled more division than any other event in history. With-in hours the symbols of that meal – became a reality.**

**Jesus says of the bread and fruit of the vine he says to us – Take, eat!**

**\*\* We must take and eat - It must be received and be in you.**

**Without it – we perish.**

**Do you see the blood of the cross and the lamb of God?**

**Is the blood applied to the door of your heart?**

**We receive the lamb in full. Are you ready?**

**As communion celebrates the cross,**

**baptism celebrates the burial and resurrection!**

**Baptism today at 4pm.**

**Next week - On the very day that lambs are slain in the temple altars – Jesus was slain**