



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Lord's Table ... by Norah

READ MARK 14: 12-26

Mark's account opens with the Festival of Unleavened Bread and the Passover meal. Read *Exodus 12* and *13* for the details of the first Passover.

This was not the first time that Jesus and the disciples had celebrated Passover together but this one was very different. Jesus had already prepared the venue (in a way on which the Scriptures are silent). There is a need for secrecy as the betrayer is among them and Jesus wants no interruption to this meal.

Passover was celebrated as a family (or combination of families) and clearly Jesus regarded these disciples as His family. No man or woman is a natural child of God. Each one who trusts in Jesus is adopted into God's family. As such, all are equal before God. His longing to meet with them is shown in *Luke 22:15*.

Jesus said: *"I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins."*

The Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread celebrated what God had done in bringing Israel out of slavery after 430 years. In the Breaking of Bread Jesus declares a much greater deliverance. God's people were in slavery to Satan and sin and many did not even know that they were slaves. Through His death and resurrection Jesus would deliver His people.

Today as we meet at the Lord's Table, let us remember that Jesus has come here with us. He is longing to meet with us. Let us keep our focus on Him and speak with Him as we celebrate His great deliverance in our lives. The Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians of their new standing.

1 Cor. 5:7-8 : "Get rid of the old yeast by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a new batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth." ■

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 40

Events /Notices

- ▶ Next Sunday 16th Sept meeting will begin at 10.00am and there will be a half hour break around 11.45am followed by a prayer session until 3pm. This will be a time for us to discover a renewed sense of what the Lord is calling us to do both as individual believers and as a church. Fasting during this time is recommended.
- ▶ Date of Baptismal service is yet to be confirmed due to practical issues but we hope that this can be resolved by the end of the month. Those wishing to be baptised should speak with the pastors.
- ▶ 'Journey to the potter's house' teaching ministry will take place at 7pm on Sunday evening 14th October. This is a visual demonstration of a biblical concept which is enriching for struggling Christians and liberating for the broken and the lost. Dr Michael Ferris, psychologist, lecturer and ex naval seal will be with us for this event.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).