

Maundy Thursday

Passover Seder and Lord's Supper Bible Study

The Search for Leaven

The search for leaven is symbolic of removing sin from our lives. Any type of yeast or bread made with yeast is removed, even the crumbs. In a Jewish home crumbs of bread have been planted, so that they can be found and removed. We search our hearts and minds for sin. We can also search our houses for temptations to sin. It is our goal to remove them both. (silence for confession)

At the completion of the search the crumbs of yeast bread are burned, and the Father of the house says:

All: Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments, and has commanded us to remove the leaven from our homes..

After the family head has made a search by candlelight to assure that all the yeast is removed, that person says:

Head of House: Any kind of leaven which remains in my possession that I have not seen nor removed or about which I do not know shall be regarded as non-existent and considered as the dust of the earth.

The Shemah

All: Hear, O Israel, The Lord Thy God, the Lord is one

The Blessing Over the Candles (A woman lights the candles at the table)

All: Blessed Art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who sanctifies us in Y'shua (Jesus), the light of the world

Leader: It is most fitting that it is a woman who kindles the lights, for we are reminded of the God's promise that the Messiah, the light of the world, would not come from the seed of man, but from the seed of the woman and by the will of God. As the prophet Isaiah declared:

Women: A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel

All: A light to the Gentiles

Leader: And the glory of Thy people Israel

All: Amen

The First Cup: Kiddush, the Cup of Sanctification

Leader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine, Amen.

All: With this cup, we commit our observance to the Lord and pray for His blessing on all the rest of the service that follows.

Leader: It was concerning this first cup that our Messiah, Y'shua, declared.

All: "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (All sip from the cup)

The Four Questions/The Story of the Four Sons/The Matzoh Tosh/The Seder Plate

The Second Cup: The Cup of Plagues

Leader: Pharaoh defied the Lord and placed his will over the Lord's. As a result, he brought destruction upon his house and land. How often do we, like Pharaoh choose our desires over God's directions? And how often do we, like Pharaoh, bring harm upon ourselves and those we care for the most? Because we share with Pharaoh the sin of disobedience, and because we regard all people as God's creation, we do not rejoice over the destruction visited upon the Egyptians.

All: We mourn their loss and express sorrow over their destruction.

Leader: Even though we are celebrating our liberation, our happiness is not complete as long as others remain bound to slavery and death. A full cup is a symbol of full joy. In is now time to drink the second cup. (All raise their cups)

All: Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, who creates the fruit of the vine (All sip from the cup for the second time)

The Passover Meal – Jesus' revealing who would betray Him.

The Finding of the Afikomen

The Third Cup – The Cup of Redemption/Blessings

Matthew 24:17-29

- Cup is related to the Passover Lamb and the blood on the doorposts
- A characteristic of God to embed a prophecy within a tradition
- The disciples most likely recognized the connection to Jesus' earlier words recorded in John 6:53-58
- The "blood of the covenant"/The Culture of God
- Is it just a symbol or reminder?
 - This would be culturally offensive as a reminder
 - Many disciples leave Jesus after His John 6 speech, but He doesn't retract it

The Body of Christ

Literal/Metaphorical/Supernatural?

1 Corinthians 10:14-20

The possibility of demonic connection with meat sacrificed at the temples

The similarity to Christ's connection to the elements of the Lord's Supper

Our eating and drinking are participation/fellowship in the body and blood of Christ

We become united to Jesus and united to all in the body of Christ

The nature of that unity is not intellectual but rather mystical/supernatural

1 Corinthians 11:17-30

They didn't understand the nature of what they were doing

Not happy hour for Jesus

Our part: remembrance, proclamation

God's part: Jesus in us and us in Jesus, keeping us alive

Extending proper honor/examining yourself

How often?

The Fourth Cup: The Cup of Elijah