

LESSONS FROM THE PASSOVER WINE

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It is just under 2 weeks to Passover ... Thursday evening March 29.

Last week we had a brief overview of the basics of the Passover ... including a reminder of self-examination.

Passover evening is probably the most solemn/serious evening of the entire year ... commemorating the death of our Lord Jesus Christ until He comes!

Don't just "turn up!" We need to be prepared. Properly comprehending what it means for us.

There are 2 key symbols at Passover ... in the Old Testament ... the Lamb's Body and Blood and ... in the New Testament ... the Bread and the Wine.

Today we are going to focus on lessons we can learn from one of those ... the Wine.

Exodus 12:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. (*Abib/Nisan*)

3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

7 And ***they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.*** (Some people call this the domestic Passover)

Exodus 12:12-13 (NKJV)

12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

13 Now ***the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are.*** And ***when I see the blood, I will pass over you;*** and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

The blood will be a sign.

Exodus 12:21-23 (NKJV)

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and ***kill the Passover lamb.***

22 And ***you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.***

23 ***For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.***

If there is no blood on the door ... you are dead.

They couldn't save themselves! No matter how hard they might try. They were enslaved ... under powerful foes ... powerful Pharaohs.

Equally ... no matter how bad they might be ... **THE BLOOD SAVES!!** We can learn from the lessons ... for you and me ... there.

Matthew 26:17-20 (NKJV)

17 Now on the first day of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "**Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?**" (***JESUS KEPT THE PASSOVER***)

18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; **I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.**" ' ' "

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. (*And ... He is eating the Passover*)

Matthew 26:26-28 (NKJV)

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." (*This represents My Body*)

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

28 **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** (*BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT ... for the remission [forgiveness] of sins*)

Don't just "read over" these scriptures. Jesus' death and blood were absolutely necessary to deliver us from sin and eternal death. IMPORTANT!

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 (NKJV)

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (*Annually*)

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

*28 **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. (Are prematurely dead)**

31 For if we would judge ourselves, (*discern*) we would not be judged. (*By God*)

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

***1 Corinthians 11:28 (AMP)**

28 **Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

All of us should make this personal. Either you will one day die forever ... or YOU WILL LIVE.

This is not just an academic doctrine. The Blood of the original Passover was a matter of life and eternal death to them. It is the same for us.
If you're not "under the Blood" ... ☹

Using figurative language ... Jesus made this very plain.

John 6:48-58 (NKJV)

48 **I am the bread of life.**

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 **This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.**

51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."**

52 The Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

53 Then Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to 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 him up at the last day.

55 **For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.**

56 **He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.**

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

58 **This is the bread which came down from heaven**—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. **He who eats this bread will live forever.**”

We can't literally eat Jesus' Flesh ... or drink His Blood. Clearly it is symbolic language. Don't just look ... be a "spectator". We make Jesus part of our lives.

Passover evening is the closest we get to ... at least symbolically ... eat and drink Jesus.

Unless you "drink the Blood" ... or at Passover ... drink the wine ... and eat the bread ... you have NO LIFE! Don't miss it. It is too important.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

We all sin ... so death! Annihilation! 2nd Death ... forever.

There is nothing that you or I can do for ourselves that can change that. We can't buy ourselves out of death. We need help! We need the BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

Romans 5:6-11 (NKJV)

6 For **when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (Us)**

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But **God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

9 **Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**

10 For **if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

11 And not only that, but **we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

We are justified by Christ's Blood and His death. We have been reconciled ... we can fellowship with God.

God values the Blood of His Son! No matter what our past ... or the magnitude of our sins ... "JUSTIFIED". So when God checks our history ... it's clean ... no record of our transgressions in our 'database'. If Satan accuses ... it is clear!

If we have been covered by the Blood ... the death penalty can "Pass Over" us. What did it cost us? Not a lot! But it cost The Father and His Son plenty.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, *(delivered from the power/authority of darkness = our Pharaoh)*

14 **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins**. *(Redeemed THROUGH THE BLOOD)*

Colossians 1:19-23 (NKJV)

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,
20 and **by Him to reconcile all things to Himself**, **by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross**. *(Peace ... through the Blood of The Cross ... the Blood of the Lamb)*

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now He has reconciled**
22 **in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight**—

23 **if indeed you continue in the faith**, **grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard**, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

We didn't do this! It was God's plan. Jesus' sacrifice and death (and life).

Don't forget what happened on the cross ... annual memorial.

1 Peter 1:13-21 (NKJV)

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 but as **He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,**

16 because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**"

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

18 **knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things,** like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Jesus' Blood is the key.

Revelation 1:4-6 (NKJV)

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

5 and from **Jesus Christ**, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To **Him who loved us and washed (bathed) us from our sins in His own blood,**

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Sin contaminates ... makes us spiritually dirty ... but now ... Jesus' Blood has made us fresh and clean.

Hebrews 9:11-15 (NKJV)

11 But **Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come**, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12 **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** (Eternal rescue)

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 **how much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

15 And **for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death**, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, **that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

JESUS' BLOOD IS BETTER!

Hebrews 9:14 (CEV)

14 **"make our conscience clear"**

In practice ... we shouldn't be overly conscious of our pasts ... regrets ... time in slavery ... they have been washed away.

Yet ... The Blood of Jesus is vitally important ... so valuable ... we should be careful not to be too casual.

Hebrews 10:26-31 (NKJV)

26 For **if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, (*deliberately make that decision to live contrary to God*)

27 **but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.**

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 **Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**

30 For we know Him who said, **"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."**

31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

The Father and the Son gave the greatest demonstration possible of their love for mankind. Plus the greatest cost that was possible. So ... if we ignore it ... or take the Passover wine carelessly ... we are getting into dangerous territory!

When we talk of Jesus' Blood ... it is not just something academic.

Jesus' Blood was shed painfully and violently ... led to His death ... was part of His intense suffering over many hours ... talking of "Blood" is shorthand for Jesus Passion and Death. (Latin: Passio, Passionem ... "Suffering" ... the Passion of Christ is the suffering of Christ).

It is good to review some of the cost to Jesus ... to help us to focus on what the Father and Jesus went through on our behalf.

Matthew 26:30, 36-47 (NKJV)

30 And **when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**

36 **Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."**

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and **He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.**

*38 Then He said to them, **"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."**

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, **"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."**

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

41 **Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, **"O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."**

43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, **"Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.**

46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

***Matthew 26:38 (WNT)**

38 and He said to them, "***My soul is crushed with anguish to the very point of death; wait here, and keep awake with me.***"

SONG: GETHSEMANE BY STUART TOWNEND

"To see the King of Heaven fall
In anguish to His knees,
The Light and Hope of all the world
Now overwhelmed with grief.
What nameless horrors must He see,
To cry out in the garden:
'Oh take this cup away from Me!
Yet not My will but Yours
Yet not My will but Yours.'"

Matthew 26:55-61 (NKJV)

55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "**Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.**

56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."
Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

59 Now **the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, (a kangaroo court)**

60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. **But at last two false witnesses came forward**

61 and said, "This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "

Matthew 26:65-68 (NKJV)

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!

66 What do you think?"

They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

67 Then **they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands**, (*Jesus was blindfolded at the time*)

68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

Matthew 26:69-75 (NKJV)... PETER'S DENIAL OF CHRIST

69 Now **Peter sat outside in the courtyard**. And **a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."**

70 **But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."**

71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, **another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."**

72 **But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"**

73 And **a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you."**

74 **Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!"**

Immediately a rooster crowed.

75 And **Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."** **So he went out and wept bitterly.**

Matthew 27:1-2 (NKJV)

1 **When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.**

2 And **when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.**

Matthew 27:17-37 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

18 **For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.**

19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

They said, "Barabbas!"

22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"
They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?"

But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and **when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.** *(After being scourged ... Jesus was ½ dead by that time ... then crucified)*

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

28 And **they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.**

29 When **they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand.** And **they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"**

30 Then **they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.**

31 And **when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.**

32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,

34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

35 **Then they crucified Him,** and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

"They divided My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots."

36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Matthew 27:45-50 (NKJV)

45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. *(Midday until 3 pm)*

46 And **about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”**

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!”

48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.”

50 **And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.**

Verse 46: Forsaken? By the Father ... became a sinful abomination?? Not so much “forsaken” ... simply “why have You left me so long?”.

AENT ... Aramaic English New Testament: “My EI! My EI! (Lemana Shabakthani) why have you spared me?!”

Jesus crying out “How much longer is this going to go on?!” Almost immediately ... His suffering was over! His prayer answered!

Jesus gave it all ... for you and me! His eternal glory with the Father. Coming to earth. Betrayal ... denial ... anguish ... physical suffering ... loss of blood ... humiliation ... death ...and ceased to exist for 3 days and 3 nights.

Jesus shed His Blood and died on the Day of The Passover. He was (is) our New Testament Passover Lamb ... whose blood was shed for you and me.

It is worth reflecting on the price that was paid so that you and I could be redeemed ... and have the opportunity of living forever.

1 Corinthians 11:25-32 (NKJV)

25 **In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

26 **For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.**

27 **Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

28 **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

29 **For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.**

30 **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. (Are prematurely dead)**

31 For **if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.**

32 But **when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.**

It is less than 2 weeks away till we take the wine of Passover ... picturing Jesus' Blood. Remember: make some time to review ... we want to take the wine in a reverent manner ... fully understanding what the sacrifice of Jesus means to us.