

October 19th 2008: Mark: Culture or Conviction: Mark 14:1-26

The danger was great.....for Jesus and.....when they met in that upper room to share together.....what was their last supper

→ **He** would be arrested that same night.....but at the time of His choosing
After He had completed His teaching.....with minimal risk for...

That's the reason behind the cloak and dagger approach.....used to locate the room

Look at what Jesus said in Mark 14:13-15:

"Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

A man carrying a jar.....would really stand out.

This clandestine approach shows....just how import this Passover feast was to Jesus
For through it he would institute a memorial feast.....that would contain...
...both a challenge and an assurance....for His followers down thro the ages...until.....

This is confirmed by Lukewho records Jesus as saying:.....in 22:15

**"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."**

- **WE can surmise**.....that this last Passover.....was not a relaxed...jovial
The atmosphere would have been tense.....the twelveon edge

A situation made a whole heap worse.....by the comment of Jesus as they sat....eating
Mark 14:18

**While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth,
one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."**

If there is a list...of the top ten conversation breakers.....would have to be on it !!
The worrying thing.....is the response of each one of His disciples

**They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"
In the Greek....this is a question that hopes for a negative response.
It is not I, is it?**

Everyone of them....it seems.....had a fear in their hearts.....that in someway.....
they may well betray Jesus.....or indeed....had betrayed Him already

The Betrayal that Jesus speaks of.....is however.....the most severe of all
To value 30 pieces of silver.....above the friendship of one.....that Judas had spent..

How such an intimate betrayal.....must have affected.....
 Despite the knowledge He had from OT Scripture(Ps 41:9).....that it would happen ???

*Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted,
 he who shared my bread,
 has lifted up his heel against me.*

I often think of the Lord's statement to Judas....when He lead the enemy to arrest

Think of all the history....all the love....all the pain behind the words....Luke 22:48
"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

- **The fact that Jesus** knew about the betrayal....and made sure Judas knew that
- is an important part.....But it's not the major focus

The major focus is what Jesus did.....with the key elements of the Passover meal
A meal they knew so well

FOR.....This was part of their culture.....Their tradition

The words they used...The food they ate...The wine they drank...had not been changed
Every Jew once they reached a certain age.....could follow.....by memory

BUT JESUS CHANGED IT IN A MOST RADICAL WAY

You see.....throughout the Passover the head.....would give a running commentary
 on the meaning behind each food eaten.....each ritual completed

This commentary was set out for him.....It was passed down thro the generations

- **So when it came to the breaking of the bread**
 There would be before the host.....the three pieces of unleaven.....→MATZOH

He would lift the middle piece up.....and say:

***"Praise be Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,
who causes bread to come forth from the earth."***

After they all responded with "Amen".....the bread would be broken.....distributed
....**thus** sharing the blessing of the bread.....to each one who chose to receive and eat

Consider what Jesus did:

**While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."**

As He broke that bread before them.....He.....who had declared Himself as the Bread
Said.....This is me

What has happened to this bread.....will happen to my Body
And in receiving this bread.....you are receiving the benefit of my body broken for you

And if that was not enough to stun them.....I'm sure that what happened next...did
Mark says:

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

**This was the third of four cups.....The fourth.....Jesus did not drink
But this third**..... was known as the cup of redemption.....Or....The Messiah's cup

The blessing ...or thanksgiving.....that Jesus spoke over it....
was again a set Text...ending with these words:→

**"May the All-merciful One make us worthy of the days of the Messiah and of the life of the
world to come. He brings the salvation of his king. He shows covenant-faithfulness to his
Anointed, to David and to his seed forever. He makes peace in the heavenly places. May he
secure peace for us and all Israel. And say you, Amen."**

They took it and they drank..... And then He said:→

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,"

• **We have heard that so many times**.....that we hardly blink at such a thing
But think of those first century Jewish.....being told by their host.....what they have just

For the Jewish person...the whole idea of drinking the blood of an animal.....repulsive
What Jesus was saying.....was that His own violent death
The shedding of His blood.....was for them(us).....

It would be the basis of a new covenant.....that would deliver the fulfillment
..of all the prophecies and more....of the Messiah's cup

No longer would anyone....need to offer the life blood of an animal
For the Son has poured out His own life.....and it's able to cover the sin of.....

- **Suddenly Jesus changed.....**this Passover meal for them....for ever
 Before it had been part of their culture
 Something they did because they were Jews.....everyone....
A remembrance of what God had done.....for others

But now ...no longer a matter of culture.....**Of** doing.. because it was the done thing
But a matter of personal conviction.....**A response** of sharing in the death.....life

That surely is the challenge that the HS brings before us

How much of what we do.....be it taking communion.....worship....ministry
 Is in danger of being a custom.....rather than an act of commitment ??

This morning Jesus says to You.....This is my body given for you
 This is my blood....poured out for you

Let our response to Him this morning ...be a fresh response of love....of commitment