

The Lord's Supper

April 5, 2020

Like some of you, I have had the opportunity to participate in foreign mission trips. On one occasion, when I was taking the Lord's Supper with a church in rural Honduras, I remember thinking about all my Christian brothers and sisters back in the U.S. who were also sharing in the communion meal that Sunday morning. The same thought has come to mind since then in different circumstances and different locations: on any given Sunday morning, we share a fellowship meal with countless brothers and sisters in Christ across the globe.

This idea is particularly poignant in the situation we face today. While we may not be hundreds of miles apart, we're not able to be together physically today to fellowship with one another, worship and share in the Lord's Supper. However, may we be encouraged in knowing that we're together in sharing a common fellowship meal, and sharing it with our church family around the world!

Say a prayer of gratitude.

Do you remember the story of the Exodus from the Old Testament? Exodus 3:7-10 tell us that God heard the cries of His people, saw their misery, and chose Moses to deliver them from their oppression. He brought judgement upon Egypt, sending terrible plagues to demonstrate that only Yahweh is the one true God.

- 1) How many of the plagues can you remember? Check your memory against Exodus chaps. 6-11.

The final plague was the death of the firstborn male of every Egyptian household – from the king to the servant, people and animals alike. But in this and every plague, the Israelites were spared.

That night when the angel of the Lord went through the land to strike the Egyptians, the Israelites had been given instructions to prepare them for their redemption out of Egypt. They

were told to prepare a lamb and roast it, and to bake bread without yeast because they wouldn't have time to wait for it to rise. They were to take the blood of the lamb and mark their doorframes. As the spirit of the Lord went through the land that night, it *passed-over* the homes of the Israelites that had the lamb's blood on their doorpost.

This meal came to be known as *Passover*, and, along with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was one of the annual feasts of the Israelites. Each time they celebrated this meal, they remembered what Yahweh had done in bringing them out of their oppression in Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land.

Read Mark 14:12-26.

- 2) Why was secrecy needed as this meal was planned? What risk was involved?

- 3) Besides the desire to be with friends, why might Jesus "eagerly desire" to share this Passover feast with the disciples?

- 4) How does Jesus' use of the bread and wine change the emphasis of Passover? How would you describe the "New Covenant" (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 10:11-18)?

Thank God for His faithfulness.