



At the Table

(Luke 22:1-30)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. At the dinner table, Jesus doesn't value etiquette (Matt 15). What does He value when His followers gather together?
 - a. Jesus' final week: (Sun) welcomed into Jerusalem; (Mon) clears the Temple of sin & false worship; (Tue & Wed) teaches at the Temple re: the Kingdom of God & His authority.
 - b. (Thu) Jesus instructs His followers how to be His Kingdom community when He's gone.

Passover [Luke 22:1-13]

1. Celebrating life in the midst of death
 - a. [1-2] While celebrating life from God (Passover), religious leaders plot the death of the One who brings life.
 - b. [3-6] Though he has seen life through Jesus, Judas rejects and denies Him.
 - c. [7-13] Historical details about Jesus' preparations for the Passover.
 - d. All the stories of the Bible (including Passover) are sub-plots to *one story*: God became a man, lived without sin, died for sin, & rose for sinners as their Savior.
 - e. Mega-theme of the Bible: God's redemption of people.
2. Passover [Exodus]
 - a. God's people go to Egypt during a famine, growing from a family of dozens into a nation of millions.
 - b. The Pharaohs (Egyptian rulers) became cruel, enslaving & abusing God's people.
 - c. God shows up to redeem & liberate His people from bondage, tyranny & oppression.
 - d. Through Moses, God commands the false king to free His people, otherwise there will be escalating consequences.
 - e. Because of Egypt's lack of repentance, the final consequence of their sin is the death of every firstborn son.
 - f. Provision: Homes that have faith in God (*internal conviction*) can demonstrate that by sacrificing an unblemished lamb as a substitute, & symbolically painting its blood on the doorway (*external action*).
 - g. When death comes, it will literally "pass over" all the homes of faith covered by blood.
 - h. Thus, the people were redeemed to be free to worship God (cf. Exo 12; 34:25; Num 9; Deut 16:1-6).
3. Passover points to the big story of redemption
 - a. We have a pharaoh named Satan; we're in a slavery called sin; we need to be redeemed & delivered.
 - b. Jesus is our substitute, whose shed blood covers us so that the wrath of God, & death for sin, passes over us.
 - c. Jesus is our prophesied Passover Lamb (cf. 1 Cor 5:7).

A community bound together by worship [Luke 22:14-22]

1. [14-15] Jesus is eager to pass on the framework for forming a new community for when He is absent.
 - a. [16,18] He will not physically enjoy bread/wine with them until His return (cf. Luke 14:14-24; 17:24; 21:27).
 - b. [17] Jesus thanks His Father (*eucharisteo*), & invites His followers to share the meal together as a community.
2. [19-22] An act of worship: Remember Jesus, the true Passover Lamb.
 - a. Celebration: [19] "In remembrance", Jesus instructs the new Kingdom community to bond together by celebrating a new Passover, a greater redemption available to all people (not just Israel) through Him.
 - i. This is why we practice "communion" (i.e., the Lord's Supper or Eucharist).
 - ii. He doesn't use lamb (sacrifice for sin), but bread & wine, because He is instituting celebration, not sacrifice (cf. 1 Cor 5:7-8).

- b. Participation: To eat bread/drink wine is an act of participation in Jesus' death/burial & redemption.
 - i. [19] Broken bread: His body broken as the final, sacrificial payment for all our sins.
 - 1. Eating it reminds us that He is in us.
 - 2. Partaking it together reminds us that we are bound together in Him as a new community.
 - ii. [20] Poured out wine: His shed blood seals a new covenant, replacing the blood of the old covenant (cf. Exo 24:8).
 - 1. Covenant: A contract & relationship between God and His people.
 - 2. Blood is the symbolic substitutionary payment for sin to make peace between God and men.
 - 3. 4 cups at Passover, representing the 4 "I will" statements God makes (Exo 6:6-7). Jesus gives them the cup of redemption: "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm."
 - iii. By His broken body & blood, the Passover Lamb redeems us from slavery to sin, Satan & death.
 - c. Declaration: To eat & drink at the same table is a token of loyalty, love & devotion to each other.
 - i. [21-22] Judas' betrayal is the worst breach of friendship in the Ancient Near East.
3. Jesus bonds us together as a new Kingdom community in worship through celebration, participation & declaration.
- a. How often should we worship in communion? Whenever we come together (cf Acts 2:42,46; 1 Cor 11:20,26).
 - i. It's not just about the food, but whenever we gather together, we remember/worship Jesus.
 - b. Application: When you take communion, do you celebrate, participate in & declare Jesus' redemption as an act of worship?
 - c. Application: When we gather together outside of church, do you practice "communion"? Do you celebrate, participate & declare Jesus with others (whether sharing a meal, playing sports, etc)?

A community bound together by sacrificial love [Luke 22:23-27]

- 1. [23-24] Questions about loyalty/betrayal turn into squabbles about who's greatest
 - a. [25] In society, those in authority boss people around, & they have to respond respectfully/thankfully.
 - b. Roman society: Fathers hold power of life/death over their children.
 - c. Jewish society: Authority, influence & inheritance is passed to the eldest first, the youngest last.
- 2. [26] In Jesus' community, those with the most influence & power should serve others as if the least.
 - a. The new Kingdom community is bound together by what we receive (from Jesus) & what we give to each other: Sacrificial love.
 - b. Motive: [27] There are 2 types of people at the dinner table: honored guests, and wait staff. But the greatest, most powerful Person in history who sits at the seat of honor, came to serve & sacrifice (cf. John 13).
 - c. Application: In response to redemption through Jesus, likewise be humble, other-centered, serving.
- 3. Application: Do you relate to people in the community of Christ differently than how people in the world relate?
 - a. As you partake in the communion/community of Christ, are you serving or using?
 - i. Do we actively serve others at church, or come with a "consumer mentality"?
 - ii. Do you use God-given areas of authority, influence or gifting to lord it over others or serve them?
 - b. Are you really friends with the community of Christ outside of church?
 - i. Do you meet the needs of the community of Christ outside of church?
 - c. How do you need to humbly honor & serve a fellow Christian who's hard to get along with?

Conclusion [Luke 22:28-30]

- 1. The communion of believers is a call to life together of worship & sacrificial love.
 - a. [28] It will be hard for those who follow (cf. Luke 21:12-18).
 - b. [29-30] Keep your eyes on the prize: When Jesus returns, we will once again sit at His table & share the best wedding banquet/dinner party ever, together forever.
 - c. There are only 2 responses to our Passover Lamb: Like Judas, reject Jesus & live for self, or accept Jesus & live in the radical new reality of sacrificial love in His new Kingdom community.