

Matthew 26:17-25: Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man & say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, & they prepared the Passover. ²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹ And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they were very sorrowful & began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me." ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

Intro: We've seen extravagant devotion to Jesus when Mary poured out a years worth of wages of expensive ointment on Jesus, preparing Him for His burial. And last week, we saw the exact opposite of the extravagant devotion of this woman. She poured everything out for Jesus. Judas took everything from Jesus & got all he could for betraying Jesus. In Judas, we saw extravagant apostasy, evil, & betrayal when he sold Jesus over to be murdered for thirty pieces of silver. Remember Judas, & fight with all God's might never to be like him because of all Jesus has done for you.

But now we're going to see an extravagant devotion that far surpasses Mary's devotion or any other devotion you've ever seen or read about in the Bible! Jesus' devotion is the greatest, most extravagant devotion ever! Jesus Christ, in His life & death, showed the greatest devotion, both to God His Father & to us! Behold what manner of love! Jesus showed extravagant devotion far surpassing Mary, but He was treated like Judas on that cross. For you! What love?!

God's wrath didn't passover Jesus so that it might passover you, so rest in His love & live for Him.

1. Jesus Prepares For His Death: One Last Passover Meal

a. What Jesus says happens: Matthew 26:17-19: Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man & say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

Jesus has told His disciples, over & over again, what is going to happen to Him. Jesus' words are sure & certain!

b. Jesus knows who will betray Him: Matthew 26:20-25: When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹ And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they were very sorrowful & began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me." ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

1) Jesus is betrayed by one closest to Him: It's one of the twelve! It's one dipping his hand in the dish eating with Me right now! Being betrayed by one so close to you makes it all the more painful! Have you ever been betrayed? Jesus knows your pain!

Hymn: Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide till the day is done;
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus; No, not one! no, not one!

2) Every single one of Jesus' disciples questioned whether it could be them: V. 22: One after another: "Is it I, Lord?" There is a kind of humility here! I could stumble! I could fall! Except for the grace of God, there go I!

3) God is sovereign & man is responsible: V. 24: The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

4) Judas asked just like everyone else: **V. 25:** Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

2. The Passover And The Feast Of Unleavened Bread

Matthew 26:17-19: Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?"¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man & say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, & they prepared the Passover.

a. The first day of Unleavened Bread: First & foremost, with its link to Passover & the departure from Egypt, unleavened bread reminded the Israelites of the immediacy of their salvation. To participate in God's plan to transform them from Pharaoh's slaves to his own people & nation, the Hebrews were required to launch out that very night, unprepared & totally dependent on God for the journey ahead. Waiting anxiously for the final plague to be over and for their promised protection to be realized, they ate the Passover & then carried out their unleavened dough on their backs. The annual requirement that no one appears empty handed at the feast highlighted the Lord's provision in the journey & later in the promised land. The wilderness journey itself was a time of testing, of total dependence on the Lord for daily food & water. Even with God's gracious provision, one of the Israelites' constant grumblings was for the food they left behind in Egypt. The feast's commemoration of the Lord's blessing was a needed reminder for a people prone to grumble. Taking them back each year to the start of their journey reminded the people of their salvation from slavery & of God's miraculous provisions since . . . the right context for understanding the ongoing significance & fulfillment of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the Passover. The two were not & cannot be separated. Christ is our Passover. His sacrifice secured our salvation & provided the deliverance pictured in Exodus. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was a memorial to that event. It reminded Israel they had to flee slavery that very night. They couldn't wait for their bread to rise. To depart on their journey, they had to willingly leave unprepared & dependent on God. For us, the context is flipped. We've received salvation, but we eagerly await its consummation. So we're called to wait vigilantly. Rather than knowing we'll leave tonight, we must be found ready for Christ to return at an unknown hour. Nothing must occupy our attention in a way that leaves us unready to depart when he returns & we're called home to stand before him. We must strain for the return of the King with the same effort the Israelites did that night, bread dough strapped to their backs, shoes on, & staffs in hand. Like the ready Israelites, we must refuse to let anything keep us from being ready for Christ's sure return.

b. The Passover: God's people, Israel, were enslaved by the Egyptians for over 400 years, & God raised up Moses to lead His people out of slavery. Moses went to call the Pharaoh to let God's people go, but the Pharaoh would not listen. So over & over again God cursed Egypt – He sent plagues upon the people to break them so that they would finally let His people go: 1) Water to blood; 2) Frogs; 3) Gnats; 4) Flies; 5) Livestock die; 6) Boils; 7) Hail; 8) Locusts; 9) Darkness; 10) Death of the first born

- **Exodus 12:1-17:** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.⁷ Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute

judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.

- **Exodus 12:29-36:** At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!" ³³ The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." ³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. ³⁵ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Keith Mathison: The blood of the Passover lamb distinguished the people of God from the unbelieving Egyptians, & observation of the Passover was a sign of faith in God. The Passover also marked Israel's redemption from slavery in Egypt. It commemorated her birth as a nation. Throughout all of Israel's generations, the Passover was to be a memorial of God's great redemptive act. It was also to be a teaching opportunity for Israelite parents, who were to explain its significance to their children. In the later prophetic books of the Old Testament, the exodus would be viewed as the paradigmatic act of redemption. When the prophets looked toward God's future work of redemption, they compared it to the original exodus & spoke of it in terms of a new and greater exodus.

God's wrath didn't passover Jesus so that it might passover you, so rest in His love & live for Him.

3. Jesus Is Our Passover

Over 30 times, the New Testament refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God: **John 1:29:** Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

- **1 Corinthians 5:7:** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
- **1 Peter 1:18-19:** you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
- **Revelation 5:11-12:** Then I looked, & I heard around the throne & the living creatures & the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads & thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power & wealth & wisdom & might & honor & glory & blessing!"
- **2 Corinthians 1:19-20:** For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus & Timothy & I, was not Yes & No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

Jesus is the only True Israelite! He is the Israelite of Israelites! He is the Hebrew of Hebrews!

In Jesus' life, we see Him do everything right that Israel did wrong, & then at the end, He was not passed over but took the wrath & judgment of God upon Himself so that we could then be passed over!

1) Like Israel, Jesus was taken out of Egypt: Hosea 11:1: When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of

Egypt I called my son.

- **Matthew 2:14-15:** he rose & took the child & his mother by night & departed to Egypt ¹⁵ & remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

2) Like Israel, Jesus passed through the waters: Israel: Red Sea crossing; **Jesus: Matt 3:16-17:** when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, & behold, the heavens were opened to him, & he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ & behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

3) Like Israel, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness: Israel: complaining about bread & meat: **Ex 16:2-3:** the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses & Aaron in the wilderness, & the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots & ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
- **Jesus: Matt 4:1-4:** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days & forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came & said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, " Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

4) Like God gave the law on to Israel on Mt. Sinai, Jesus gave commands at the Sermon on the Mount

5) But unlike Israel, who disobeyed God's law over & over again, Jesus obeyed the law!

Then He Died: Jesus, more than anyone else ever, deserved to be passed over! He deserved none of the curses or plagues. But Jesus was not passed over! **And He is risen!!**

Non-Christian friend, you don't deserve to be passed over! **Rom 11:22:** Note then the kindness & the severity of God

God's wrath didn't passover Jesus so that it might passover you, so rest in His love & live for Him.

**Jesus Christ Is The Passover Lamb; The Substitute Ram; And The Great "I AM";
So We Can Become Children Of Abraham!**

We've been passed over
The Lamb has been slaughtered
Blood has been poured out
Sin has been atoned for
The wrath of God has been quenched
Because Jesus was not passed over

We've been passed over
Judgment upon sin has been executed
The curse of God has fallen
Hell's flames toward us have been extinguished
The Lamb of God has taken away the sin of the world
Because Jesus was not passed over

We've been passed over
Just like God's people in Egypt were passed over
The lamb without blemish was slain
The blood of the lamb was put on the doorposts
Those in the house were saved, safe, and satisfied

While the first born child in every Egyptian house was destroyed
All the first born children of Israel were kept alive
The LORD and His destroyer passed over their homes
But Jesus was not passed over

We've been passed over
Even though we don't deserve to be passed over
Like undeserving Israel, we complain and murmur against God
We don't love Him as we ought
We don't trust Him as we ought
We don't delight in Him as we ought
We don't obey Him as we ought
We don't love our neighbors as ourselves as we ought
And we sin as we ought not
But oh don't you know – by the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, it's all been taken care of forever
Because Jesus was not passed over!

We've been passed over
God's curse has passed over us
God's wrath has passed over us
God's judgment has passed over us
God's hell has passed over us
God's eternal and infinite condemnation has passed over us forever
Because Jesus was not passed over!

We've been passed over
But Jesus was wickedly turned over
Judas betrayed Him over
Pilate unjustly condemned Him over
Peter denied Him over and over and over
The soldiers mocked, beat, and spit on Him all over
Our sins were counted as His all over
Even His Father forsook Him as He cried out to Him over and over
And wicked men and the devil thought it was all over
Because Jesus was not passed over, But let me tell you something – it is not over!

We've been passed over
But let me tell you that when Jesus died on that cross it was not all over
Oh tell yourself this over and over – that's it's not over – it's never over because of Jesus our Passover!
Whatever good you think is over in your life – dead and hopeless and lifeless and over – it's not over because of Jesus our Passover!
Because He came to turn over what's over and make all things new over; He gives you a do-over; And can do the ultimate make-over that will leave you praising Him all over and over!
For He has been raised up over all that seems over and rules over all with all authority over heaven and over earth!
Because Jesus was not passed over!

We've been passed over
Because Jesus rose up from the dead and rules as King over death!
He rules as King over sin!
He rules as King over the grave!
He rules as King over Satan!

He rules as King over the world!
He rules as King over our flesh!
He rules as King over all His and your enemies!
He rules as King over all as the Christ Who is all in all!
All because He was not passed over!

We've been passed over
So now we live to tell about Christ our Passover Who was not passed over!
The same Holy Spirit that raised Him from the dead to rule and reign over all is dwelling in you!
He grants you power over death!
He grants you power over sin!
He grants you power over the grave!
He grants you power over Satan!
He grants you power over the world and the flesh!
He grants you power over all of your enemies so that you are more than a conqueror through Him Who loves you!
Oh you've been passed over because our God so loved you that He gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life!
Oh, yes – we've been passed over!
Because Jesus, our Passover, was not passed over!

Christ Jesus Our Hope – The Passover Lamb
Though We Should Be Slaughtered By The Great I AM
Unleashed Over Us God's Judgment Slam
But Christ Took It All – God's Anger Damn
God's Only Son – The Substitute Ram
Like Isaac, The Son Of Abraham
But God Did Slaughter His Son The Pure Lamb
Then Raised Him Alive – The God-Man I AM
So Now, God Our Souls Will Never Damn
By Faith Alone We're Children Of Abraham
Passed Over And Saved All Because Of The Lamb!