

Matthew 26:26-29: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, & after blessing it broke it & gave it to the disciples, & said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, & when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Intro: In Matt 26, we've seen the extravagant devotion of Mary shown to Jesus as she poured out a years worth of wages of expensive ointment on Jesus, preparing Him for His burial. Then we saw the exact opposite of this extravagant devotion when Judas 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. Point: remember Judas, & fight with all God's might never to be like him because of all Jesus has done for you.

Two weeks ago & today we're beginning 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 the Father has show to us! Jesus showed extravagant devotion far surpassing Mary, but He was treated like Judas on that cross. Point: God's wrath didn't passover Jesus so that it might passover you, so rest in His love & live for Him.

Today, we see the fulfillment of the passover meal in Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper. (3 sermons)
Remember Jesus' body, broken for you, trust in Him, delight in Him, & live for Him.

1. Jesus: The Fulfillment Of Passover

Matthew 26:26: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, & after blessing it broke it & gave it to the disciples

a. The place: Jesus & His disciples are celebrating the Passover within the walls of Jerusalem, & this means they are not far from the temple mount. Do you remember what all happened at this place of the temple mount? Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his son Isaac there. In 2 Samuel 24, God was punishing Israel because David counted the people. But God had mercy & David made an altar there to gave thanks. It was here that Solomon built the temple & sacrificed thousands of animals: **Ligon Duncan:** Somewhere on the night of his betrayal, within a few yards of the place where Solomon's Temple had been erected, within a few yards of the place where David had erected the altar of thanksgiving to God, within a few yards of the place where Abraham had rendered up Isaac and the substitute had been found, the Lord Jesus Christ is instituting the Lord's Supper.

b. The purpose: 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:** 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.

Keith Mathison: When the Gospels open, it is no coincidence that numerous parallels are seen between Jesus & Moses & between Jesus & Israel. Jesus was even taken down into Egypt only to return after the death of Herod. This is said to have occurred "to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matt 2:15). Herod's decree to kill all the male children in Bethlehem is a gruesome echo of Pharaoh's decree to kill all the male children of the Israelites. Commentators discuss even more parallels, but the point of the parallels is to communicate to the reader that the long-awaited time of redemption was at hand. The prophesied new exodus was near. Why, then, did Jesus institute the Lord's Supper on the Passover the night before His crucifixion? In the first place, it is because He is the fulfillment of all that was foreshadowed by the Passover lamb. His blood, the blood of the new covenant, averts the wrath of God for those who place their faith in Him. Second, it is because the Last Supper was the eve of the prophesied greater new covenant act of redemption—the promised act of redemption that the prophets described in terms of a new exodus—and just as the first exodus was preceded by the institution of the Passover, the greater new exodus was preceded by the institution of the Lord's Supper. Jesus

instituted the Lord's Supper on this night to signify that this new exodus was about to begin. This act indicated that the time of redemption had come. **GOSPEL!**

2. The Bread Represents Jesus' Body

Matthew 26:26: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, & after blessing it broke it & gave it to the disciples, & said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

What does "this is my body" mean? There have been various views throughout church history:

a. Roman Catholic view: Transubstantiation: Roman Catholic Catechism: The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, & this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread & wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord & of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly & properly called transubstantiation."

Problems: 1) This confuses the symbol or sign with the reality: Picture of your mother; Passover Lamb (Jesus' body is the temple; I am the bread of life; I am the door; I am the vine – Jesus spoke this way all the time!)

2) When Jesus said, "This is my body," His literal, physical body was right there in front of them!

3) **John 6:55-56:** For my flesh is true food, & my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh & drinks my blood abides in me, & I in him.

- **John 6:63:** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit & life

4) **Martyn Lloyd-Jones:** He later goes on to say "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." [Luke 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25] & therefore you can say to them that if they insist upon the "is" in the one case, they must insist upon it in the other. And therefore say that the wine doesn't matter at all, it's the cup that matters. Because what He said was "This cup" not the wine that's in the cup. "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." . . . there is no answer to that . . . the attempt to foist this doctrine of transubstantiation onto that one word "is" is something which is not only quite unscriptural, it is indeed unreasonable. And the fact is, of course, that the whole doctrine came into the church simply in order to enhance the position & the status of the priests. It is only the priests who can work this miracle, & of course as he alone can do it, he becomes correspondingly important, & it's a part of the whole movement to exaggerate the importance of the priest.

b. Lutheran view: Consubstantiation: Martin Luther's Small Catechism: What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It is the true body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread & wine, for us Christians to eat & to drink, instituted by Christ Himself. **Seminary notes:** Lutherans believe it is an oral eating of Christ, but it is not a natural eating, but a supernatural eating that cannot be reduced to rational comprehension. Under-girding the Lutheran view is their Christology: the attributes of the divine nature are communicated to the human nature.

- **Kevin DeYoung:** In Lutheran theology, the bread is real bread and the wine is real wine, but the physical presence of Christ is also there, "in, with, and under" the elements.

Problem: Jesus' human nature is not omnipresent! **Kevin DeYoung:** This position requires the ubiquity (appearing everywhere) of Christ's glorified human body, which throws into question whether Christ's divine & human natures were indissolubly joined, yet "without confusion" and "without change."

c. Memorialist view: This view rejects the physical presence of Christ & the sacrificial character of the Lord's Supper. There is no real presence of the body of Christ involved in the Supper. Christ is only present in our understanding. The soul embraces the redeeming virtue of the body of Christ. This view holds that there is no unique presence of Christ & no unique grace bestowed. Christ is present only in His divinity & not His humanity. The eating of the supper is the same as believing. There is little or no mystery in the supper; a mystical fellowship

of believers with the body & blood is eliminated. The supper is an intellectual reminder of what Christ has done & a pledge of our commitment to Him.

Problem: 1 Corinthians 10:16: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation (Fellowship; Communion) in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

d. Reformed (Biblical) view: Real Spiritual Presence: Robert Letham: 1) It is a memorial: Luke 22:19: “Do this in remembrance of Me”

2) It is a proclamation of the Gospel (death, resurrection, return): 1 Corinthians 11:26: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

3) It is spiritual communion or fellowship or participation with the Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 10:16: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

- **Robert Letham:** This eating & drinking is not physical but is nonetheless real & true. Christ does not come down to us in His body & blood. Instead, we are lifted up to Him by the Holy Spirit . . . We feed on Christ through faith.

- **Kevin DeYoung:** When we drink the cup & eat the bread, we participate in, & have fellowship with, the body & blood of Christ. We are joined to him & experience deep, spiritual koinonia with him. When we feast in faith, Christ is our nourishment & strength. In celebrating the Lord's Supper, we do not simply remember the work of Christ in his death; we are also lifted up into heaven by the Spirit to enjoy fellowship with the living Christ in glory.

Remember Jesus' body, broken for you, trust in Him, delight in Him, & live for Him.

3. Jesus Blessed The Bread

Matthew 26:26: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, & after blessing it broke it & gave it to the disciples

a. The blessing: R. C. Sproul: I had a student once that made me lose it. I was lecturing on the Lord's Supper, & his question was not so much a question as an expression of unbridled cynicism. He put his hand up, & I acknowledged him. He said, “What's the big deal about bread & wine? Why do we have to do that? Why can't we just have peanut butter & jelly sandwiches & Coca-Cola?” That's when I lost it. I just felt this rage just flowing up out of my soul. He grated my sensitivity when he said that, & instead of giving a polite, genteel, professorial response to him, I said, “You want to know why we don't have peanut butter & jelly sandwiches & coca-cola at Holy Communion? Because Jesus never consecrated peanut butter & jelly or Coca-Cola.” . . . he had just profaned with his question something that was precious & holy . . . But what is it that makes the bread & the wine so special? What is it that makes any moment in history so special? What is it that makes a piece of real estate holy ground? Why is it that Noah marked the spot where he landed & built an altar? & Abraham built an altar to God. Why is it that we are drawn to take something that is common & make it extraordinary because of its significance? It's not because of the intrinsic value of these objects. But what makes something sacred, what makes something holy is the touch of God upon it. When the one who Himself is other & different touches that which is ordinary, it becomes extraordinary.

b. The bread: John Piper: One of the reasons God created bread – or created the grain & the water & yeast & fire & human intelligence to make it, & I mean the really good kind, that's not mainly air – is so that when Jesus Christ came into the world, he would be able to use the enjoyment of bread & the nourishment of bread as an illustration of what it means to believe on Him & be satisfied with Him. I believe that with all my heart. Bread exists to help us know what it is like to be satisfied in Jesus. This is true for water (John 4:14) & light (John 14:6) & every other good thing that God has made. Nothing exists for itself. “All things were created through Him and for Him” (Col 1:16). Every honorable pleasure that we have in the created world is designed by God to give us a faint taste of heaven & make us hunger for Christ. Every partial satisfaction in this life points to the perfect satisfaction in Jesus who made the world. The pleasures of warm bread should send our senses & our spirits to Christ as the bread of

life. The pleasures of cold water when we're hot & thirsty should send our senses & our spirits to Christ as the living water. The pleasures of light making all other natural beauties visible should send our senses & our spirits to Christ as the true light of the world.

- **Psalm 34:8:** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

4. Jesus Broke The Bread

Matthew 26:26: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, & after blessing it broke it & gave it to the disciples

Is there any significance to the fact that the bread is broken?

John 19:36: For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." (Psalm 34:20)

But there are other ways to be broken besides having your bones broken! Job 17:1: My spirit is broken

You can be broken over sin: Ezekiel 6:9: I [God] have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me & over their eyes that go whoring after their idols.

Jesus was broken like a vessel (container/bowl) on that cross: Psalm 31:5: Into your hand I commit my spirit
- **Psalm 31:12:** I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

Jesus had a broken heart on that cross: Romans 15:3: For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." (Psalm 69:9)
- **Psalm 69:20:** Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair.

Jesus was broken as God's enemy: 1 Samuel 2:10: The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces
- **Nahum 1:3-6:** The LORD is slow to anger & great in power, & the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind & storm, & the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebukes the sea & makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan & Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers. The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world & all who dwell in it. Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, & the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

Robert Letham: In the Lord's Supper we see before us a loaf of bread torn to pieces. Even so Christ's body was, so to speak, torn to shreds for our salvation, to make us whole.

- But Jesus is also unbreakable! He's the broken One & the Unbroken, Unbreakable One all at the same time!
- He was more broke than anyone's ever been broken; He was broker than the brokest & more broken than anyone's ever been broken in the history of this broken universe! Yet He's also unbreakable!
- He's the unbreakable of all unbreakables; He can't be broken; He won't be broken; He broke the grave! He broke all evil! He broke the devil! He broke our sin! He broke death! He broke all that's broken to heal it all forever!
- Not a bone of His body was broken! He's the Lamb Who was slain & the Lion of the Tribe of Judah all at the same time!
- He rose up from the dead! He's unbreakable! He's unstoppable! He's uncontainable! He's irresistible!
- Herod tried to break Him & kill Him as soon as He was born! But He's unbreakable!
- The Devil tried to break Him when he tempted Him in the wilderness three times, but He's unbreakable!
- The Pharisees & Sadducees & all other kinds of wicked ones you see tried to break Him with their word games & crafty traps, but He always answered them in such a way that left them speechless – He's unbreakable!

Remember Jesus' body, broken for you, trust in Him, delight in Him, & live for Him.

4. Jesus Gave The Bread – His Body

Matthew 26:26: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, & after blessing it broke it & gave it to the disciples, & said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

This is shocking! This is the Passover! This is about Yahweh's great deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt! But Jesus makes it all about Him! No man every spoke this way!

Where is the lamb? There is no mention of the Lamb. Jesus is the lamb!

Jonathan Worsley: It's like the best man at a wedding standing up to give his speech & saying: Today's my birthday!

Ligon Duncan: When he comes to the breaking of bread, the Jews would have ordinarily said something like this "This is the bread of affliction, which our ancestors ate when they left Egypt." But the Lord Jesus doesn't say that. He breaks the bread, & then He says, "This is My Body." And the disciples would have been stunned. They would have been startled by this dramatic change, & the Passover celebration, & that dramatic change to focus on His body in the bread is a change which is emphasized in all four the Gospels.

What was the very first temptation & sin on earth? "Take & eat" Ligon Duncan: As we gather in Jesus' name, we hear Jesus say the words "take & eat." It's as if Jesus, recalling the words from Genesis 3 about Eve "taking & eating" of the serpent's fruit, says, "watch this, Satan!" Then He repeats the words by offering Himself as a sacrifice: "take and eat. This is my body, given for you." What were once words leading to condemnation are now, on the lips of Jesus, words of salvation . . . Derek Kidner, meditating on Genesis 3:6 [wrote]: "So simple the act, so hard its undoing. God will taste poverty & death before 'Take & eat' become verbs of salvation."

Jesus Body Was Broken Throughout; And His Blood Poured Out; For Us He Went Without; He's The Most Devout; Without A Doubt; And His Work's What This Supper Is All About!

His body was broken just as He's spoken now the bread is a token of His love that's unbroken!
The most beautiful body; the most extraordinary body; the most valuable body; the most precious body; the most perfect and sinless body; the only satisfying body: This body He gave and was made depraved; though perfect and brave; He died to save and rose from the grave to make us His slave and Him alone crave! That's my King!

His body was broken. The most beautiful body; the most extraordinary body; the most valuable body; the most precious body; the most perfect and sinless body; the only satisfying body; the God-Man body: This body was the most broken body that has ever crossed the horizon of this world! That's my King!

His body was broken. His body was left more broken than broke; They ripped off His cloak and left Him naked like a joke; They jeered and they spit, but He never once spoke; May this love our hearts stoke and compassion evoke for the lost and the broke, so good works He'll provoke! That's my King!

His body was broken. His appearance was so disfigured that He didn't look like a man; It's like He was cut up and sliced by a fan or had His body through a meat grinder ran; And Muslims want me to believe the Quran? No! "Christ is all!" the span, and He's still better than everything since time's began! That's my King!

His body was broken. But He's unbreakable!
He lived a sinless life unshakable!
He rose up from the dead indestructible!
He's unexplainable!
Everything He was and does is treasurable!
He gives life everlasting pleasurable!
He's invulnerable!

He's unmistakable!
He's unchangeable!
He's unbelievable and believable all at the same time! That's my King!

He's unimpeachable!
He's unbeatable!
He does the impossible!
He's indescribable!
He's irrefutable!
He's unforgettable!
But sometimes He'll leave you uncomfortable!
He's available!
He's infinitely lovable!
He's unavoidable!
He's inescapable! That's my King! That's my King!

Oh friend! This Lord's Supper is for sinners! Do you see that your sin is what sent Jesus to the Cross to be broken!

Matthew 11:28-30: Come to me, all who labor & are heavy laden, & I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, & learn from me, for I am gentle & lowly in heart, & you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, & my burden is light.

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Christ Jesus Is Our Sumptuous Feast
In Him There Is No Sin Or Yeast
His Body Killed Our Heav'nly Feast
His Blood Poured Out Till His Life Ceased
He Bore God's Wrath As Our High Priest
Then Rose Again So Death's Deceased
All Sins Are Gone From Great To Least
Removed As Far As West To East
Our Taste For Sin Is Gone Decreased
Life For His Glory More Increased
To Live For Christ We've Been Released
Delight In Him Our Pleasure Feast!