

Thursday - The Bread and the Cup

It is now the evening before Jesus is to be crucified. On this evening, Jesus gathered with the disciples to celebrate the Passover. The Passover is a feast of remembrance for when God led his people out of Egypt. On the night before they left, God would pass through Egypt and strike all of the firstborn dead, but the people of Israel were instructed to sacrifice a lamb and cover the doorposts of their homes with the blood of the lamb. Homes covered with the blood of the lamb, God would *pass over* and not strike down the firstborn of those homes because they were his covenant people. Every year after, God's people were instructed to remember God's mercy to his people by celebrating the Passover feast.

Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:26-29

Jesus is now instituting a new and perfect sacrifice and a new meal of remembrance for the church. What is the sacrifice? What is the meal?

(The sacrifice is Jesus himself, and the meal is the Lord's Supper.)

Read Hebrews 10:12.

Jesus was showing the disciples that God is making a new covenant with his people.

Jesus was about to lay down his life as the final "once for all" sacrifice. The old sacrificial system had always pointed to the final sacrifice of the Son of God for the sins of the world.

Just as Israel gathered to remember the Passover, our church regularly gathers weekly to remember his resurrection and monthly to remember his sacrifice through the Lord's Supper.

God emphasizes the importance of remembrance. Do you look for opportunities daily to remember God's faithfulness to you?

Close by praying that our desire would grow to gather and celebrate these things together.