

UNTIL THEN

Jesus just had a few more hours to live. In those final hours He determined to reveal a Truth to His disciples that would rock their world.

They did not know what the next few hours would reveal about the Lord.

They did not know about the Garden prayer of intimacy between Jesus and His Heavenly Father.

They did not know, nor would they be able to comprehend His brutal arrest.

They did not know about the series of illegal and prejudiced trials that would last all night.

They did not know about Pilate.

They did not know about the mocking Roman soldiers.

They did not know about the cross of death that awaited their Master, the Lamb of God.

They did not know!

Here is what Luke wrote about the last Passover that Jesus would celebrate with His disciples:

Luke Chapter 22

¹Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

² And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people.

³ Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

⁴ And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

⁵ And they were glad and covenanted to give him money.

⁶ And he promised and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

⁷ Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the Passover must be killed.

⁸ And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the Passover, that we may eat.

⁹ And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare?

¹⁰ And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in.

¹¹ And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples?

¹² And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready.

13 And they went and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the Passover.

14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

Luke Chapter 22

15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

“I have been waiting for this day!”

16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves:

18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Jesus took common, ordinary elements and turned them into a powerful memory tool for His followers. After all, what Jewish home would not have bread and wine?

Always remember there is no efficacy in the elements - the bread and wine. They were simply instruments in the Lord's hands to teach an eternal lesson. It is an error to pronounce them to be otherwise. The value of the Passover/communion is in His person - who He was then and who He is now.

In His usual teaching style, Jesus used a metaphor to drive the point home. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

Remember, He said:

"I AM the Bread of Life" (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

"I AM the Light of the World" (John 8:12)

"I AM the Door of the sheep" (John 10:7, 9)

"I AM the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11, 14)

"I AM the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25)

"I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6)

"I AM the true Vine" (John 15:1, 5).

Using a metaphor did not lessen the Truth - it simply reinforced the Truth in a more understandable way.

The challenge to the Disciples, and to us, is to discern the spiritual truth of the Last Supper/Passover.

The bread: represents His body - given as a sacrifice for sin.

The wine: represents His blood - given as the only remedy for our salvation.

When we eat the elements of the Last Supper, we are participating in a unique worship experience. However, it isn't just the eating, it is also the believing. Those who eat but do not believe receive nothing spiritual - they just eat!

In fact, the Apostle Paul warns in **1 Corinthians 11:25-29** (NKJV)

²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Examine Yourself

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and ^[a]blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man **examine himself**, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks ^[b]in an **unworthy**

manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the ^[c]Lord's body.

Paul's use of the phrase "unworthy manner" is a direct rebuke of those who are insincere and non-understanding of the Lord's Supper. To eat the bread and drink the cup disrespectfully **brings no dishonor to the bread and cup.** But it does show a disregard for the Who and what that the bread and cup represents.

To help you understand the serious meaning of Paul's warning, I want to cite some synonyms of the word - "unworthy."

They are not nice words! **undeserving - worthless - contemptible - unfit - degrading - dishonorable - disgraceful - shameful.**

But, to those who believe - **(I believe - don't you?)** - those who are His followers and believe His promise - they eat with a keen understanding and expectation of the coming Kingdom.

Jesus promised that the Kingdom is coming. It is a grand and glorious Kingdom unlike anything ever seen before. The magnitude and majesty of that Kingdom is

beyond our finite human understanding because all we can compare it to is the failing, faltering, deteriorating, festering, self-serving kingdoms of humanity.

The word **UNTIL** means - “not before a particular time or event:”

This word - **UNTIL** -is a powerful Prepositional WORD that is used 292 times in the OT and 58 times in the NT

In almost the totality of these scriptures, the word **UNTIL** refers to a particular time or event.

Jesus clearly states the time and event. He said, “**UNTIL it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**”

He is still waiting and looking forward to the fulfillment of the **UNTIL** that He promised His disciples.

The **UNTIL** hasn't happened yet, **but it's coming!** Whereas there are glimpses of the glory of His Kingdom when we witness a person being delivered from the bondage of sin - His full Kingdom is yet to be experienced.

The world's false religions and phony spiritual gurus have tried to make the **UNTIL** their possession, but they cannot take away what belongs to Jesus. The future **UNTIL** of His Kingdom belongs to Him.

He died to make that **UNTIL** possible!

He overcame death, hell, and the grave to make that **UNTIL** possible.

He walked out of the tomb and ascended into heaven to make that **UNTIL** possible.

Sadly, one Christian Commentary suggests that Jesus probably had many more Passover meals with the disciples after His death and resurrection. Of course, if that were true it would mean that He did not ascend to heaven but chose to remain on earth. If He did not ascend - then our faith is in vain. In vain, because everything He promised would be cancelled.

I believe the scriptures are forthright and flawlessly precise! There is no room for supposition and speculation about what Jesus did and what He is yet to do.

He did die. He did resurrect. He did ascend. He will return.

These truths are seamless in the fabric of the Christian faith. **He did not rise to stay! He rose to go!**

The disciples watched Him go. They heard the voice of the angels declare in Acts 1:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ **“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”**

He went to heaven to prepare for the time when the **UNTIL** would be fulfilled!

Who will be present when the **UNTIL** becomes the **NOW**?

O.T. saints who trusted in God even before Jesus appeared on the earth will be there.

Those believers who were martyred for their faith in Jesus will be there.

All believers on this side of the cross who remained true and finished the race will be there!

Your loved ones, friends, and family, who died in the faith will be there.

Who will participate when the **UNTIL** becomes the **NOW**?

All the redeemed children of God throughout all the ages!

On that momentous and glorious day, I believe Jesus will stand before His redeemed children - those whom He redeemed with His own blood - and announce - at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb - "With desire, I have desired to eat this meal with you! **I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY!"**

I can hardly wait for that amazing celebration. My imagination is fairly creative, but I can't even imagine how that scene will unfold.

Jesus, Son of God, son of Mary. He is:

1. The Savior
2. The Redeemer
3. The Bread of Life
4. The Lord
5. The Creator
6. The Son of the Living God
7. The One and Only Begotten Son of God

- 8. The Beloved Son**
- 9. The Holy One of Israel**
- 10–14. Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace**
- 15. The King of Kings**
- 16. The Head of the Church**
- 17. The Almighty**
- 18. The Alpha and Omega**
- 19. The Master**
- 20. The King of the Jews**
- 21. The High Priest**
- 22. The Prophet**
- 23. The Teacher**
- 24. Immanuel**
- 25. The Advocate**
- 26. The Mediator**
- 27. The Judge**
- 28. The Chief Cornerstone**
- 29. The Author and Finisher of Our Faith**
- 30. The Lamb of God**
- 31. The Good Shepherd**
- 32. The Shepherd and Bishop of Souls**
- 33. The Word**
- 34. The Fountain of Living Waters**
- 35. The Rock**
- 36. The Messiah**

- 37. The True Vine
- 38. The Branch
- 39. The Bridegroom
- 40. The Dayspring
- 41. Shiloh
- 42. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah
- 43. The Bright and Morning Star
- 44. The Image of the Invisible God
- 45. The I Am
- 46. The Son of Man
- 47. The Carpenter
- 48. The Way, the Truth and the Life
- 49. The King of Israel
- 50. The Christ

Do you know Him? Do you love Him? Do you serve Him?

Are you ready for the day of the UNTIL to be NOW?

On that day the heavens will resound with the praises of his redeemed people! I plan to be there - don't you? I long to hear Him say, "Welcome home. I've been waiting for you!"

I am anxious to find my place around that great table of the Lord and hear Him announce - "I have been waiting for this day!"

CLOSING PRAYER

UNTIL THEN

1. My heart can sing when I pause to remember,
A heartache here is but a steppingstone;
Along a trail that's winding always upward,
This troubled world is not my final home.

Chorus

But until then my heart will go on singing,
Until then with joy I'll carry on;
Until the day my eyes behold the city,
Until the day God calls me home.

2. The things of earth will dim and lose their value,
If we recall they're borrowed for a while;
And things of earth that cause the heart to tremble,
Remembered there will only bring a smile.

3. This weary world with all its toil and struggle,
May take its toll of misery and strife;
The soul of man is like a waiting falcon,
When it's released, it's destined for the skies.

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