

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH
V. The Disciples' Day of Preparation For Passover
Thursday, 13th Nisán (April 2), A.D. 33

Mt. 26:1-5, 14-19; Mk. 14:1,2, 12-16; Lk. 22:1-13; Jn. 12:20-50; 13:1

Introduction:

On first day of the last week in His life on Earth, Jesus was served a cooked meal at **Baythah-néeah** (Bethany) in the dwelling of Simon the leper. It was prepared and served by **Máhrthah** and eaten in second evening (sunset til dark) on Sunday, 9 Nisán (March 29), 'six days before Passover.' The national Passover that year occurred on Friday, 14 Nisán (April 3), A.D. 33. After dinner and the event of the evening, it was too late (after dark) to travel any distance (especially c. thirteen miles) back to **Ehfrah-ém** (*Macmillan Bible Atlas*, map # 236), where He had been tarrying for the last five days. Jesus and His disciples retired to spend the night at **Baythah-néeah** (Bethany) and began the journey to Jerusalem in the next morning, Monday, 10 Nisán (March 30), and not on Sunday, 9 Nisán (March 29), which is the traditional day of observance of His Triumphal Entry. He returned to and passed Monday night at **Baythah-néeah**. Then the next morning, on their journey to Jerusalem, He and His disciples descended the Mount of Olives and came upon a fig tree having leaves but no fruit. That day The Lord Jesus demonstrated and expressed four of His emotions by: Cursing the Fig Tree, Crying over Jerusalem, Cleansing The Temple, and Compassion on the Helpless in the court of The Temple. They had spent Tuesday night on the Mount of Olives. Although Wednesday is regarded by many Bible teachers to be a day of silence for The Lord Jesus Christ, that concept is far from The Truth. That day He spent more time teaching His disciples and the multitudes in The Temple with more details of His teaching than other day recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke than any other day of His three year ministry. It appears that this concept is derived, perhaps because of the attempt to account for the days of this last week of His life before His crucifixion and resurrection-ascension since they claim His Triumphal Entry to have been on Sunday instead of Monday.

On Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1) in the morning watch just before dawn (c. 6:00 A.M.) on their way to The Temple from The Mount of Olives, Jesus and His twelve disciples beheld the fig tree, that Jesus cursed the day before, completely dried up from the roots. He taught his disciples on this day during three segments of time throughout the day. First in early morning, **Lessons Taught on the Way to The Temple**; c. 6:00 - c. 7:30 A.M. (Mk. 11:20-26; Mt. 21:20-22); then **His Ministry in The Temple** c. 8:00 A. M - c. 6:30 P.M. (Mk. 11:27-13:2 Lk. 21:5-28); and **His Ministry on the Mount of Olives** (Mt. 24:1-26; Mk. 13:1-37; Lk., 21:5-36) c. 6:30- Sundown. In most of His Teachings on this day Jesus used parables to illustrate and emphasize The Truth He intended to communicate.

On Thursday, 13th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33, these six events took place: **The Consultation of The Priests, The Covenant to Betray Jesus, The Concern of the of the Greek-speaking Jews, The Concern of the Disciples, The Command to Prepare The Passover; and The Compliance In Preparation.** When He finished His sayings on The Mount, it was nearly Sundown when Jesus Announced, "You[&] are aware that after two days it becomes the Passover and the Son of ¹Man^[The Human] is being betrayed for the purpose of being crucified" (Mt. 26:1,2; Mk. 14:1 APT). The chief priests and scribes already had been continually seeking how they could abduct and execute Jesus, but not during the Festival of Passover. It came into their hearts to cast their hands over upon Him earlier that

afternoon, but they feared the reaction of the people (Lk. 20:19; 22:1,2).

A. The Consultation of The Priests (Mt. 26:3,4; Mk. 14:1,2 cf. Lk. 20:19; 22:1,2).

It was after Sundown that the chief priests, scribes, and elders gathered together in the enclosed courtyard of the High Priest and consulted together how they could abduct Jesus by deceit subtlety and kill Him but not during the Festival lest it cause an uproar of the people (Mt. 26:3-5; Mk. 14:1,2).

B. The Covenant to Betray Jesus (Mt. 26:14-16; Mk. 14:10,11; Lk. 22:3-6).

It was at the same time as Jesus finished His Teachings at the Mount of Olives that Judas Iscariot departed and journeyed, to contract with the chief priests and military leaders of the Temple custody (guard) to betray Jesus for thirty silver shekels (Mt. 26:1-5,14-16; Mk. 14:10,11; Lk. 22:3-6). Please note five facts:

1. The Person - Judas Iscariot, a false disciple of The Lord Jesus Christ's yielded to Satan's control (Lk. 22:3).
2. The Price - thirty silver shekels {c. four months' pay; 1 shekel = four days' pay (Mt. 26:15 cf. Zech. 11:12) or the price paid to a slave being gored by an ox (Ex. 21:32).
3. The Plan - to betray Jesus in the absence of a crowd (Lk. 22:6).
4. The Purpose - To 'Betray': four aspects:
 - a. "to deliver an enemy by treachery" (Webster);
 - b. to expose to great danger;
 - c. to violate a trust
 - d. to abandon in a crisisAll of these apply to this act of Judas Iscariot
5. The Place - "in absence of a crowd" (Lk. 22:6) - at c. 2:30 A.M. in a secluded spot in The Garden of **Gethsaymahnáy** on The Mount of Olives (Mk. 14:32 APT).

During the next morning the disciples approached Jesus and expressed a concern about the customary observance of the Passover.

C. The Concern of the Disciples (Mt. 26:17; Mk. 14:12).

The disciples were Galileans as was Jesus and the previous Passover was observed in Galilee because the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus and He was determinedly not willing to walk in Jerusalem because the Jews were continually seeking to kill Him (Jn. 7:1), which would be a year before His time to die. But now His time to die had come and being fully aware of the necessity to die at the time and the place to fulfill all prophecy, He has given no indication of departing from the vicinity of Jerusalem so that He be crucified there. This left the disciples puzzled to know where the Passover would be observed and whether they would eat the Seder when the Galileans did according to their calendar or when the Pharisees ate the Seder according to their reckoning of the day. Thus The Galileans (of whom were Jesus and His disciples) celebrated a day earlier according to the Galilean calendar. This explains why the Jews would not enter the Praetorium or Judgment Hall lest they be polluted (defiled), but in order that they eat the Passover (Jn 18:28) which must be killed on 14 Nisán between 3-6 P.M. (Ex 12:6). It also explains why the disciples ate the Passover the day before the Judeans and the crucifixion (Jn. 13:13 cf. Lk. 22:15) while the majority of the people ate it after the crucifixion. According to both calendars Jesus was crucified on the fourteenth of

Nisán at 3:00 P.M., but the reckoning of the beginning of the day differed. The beginning of the Galilean day was reckoned from Sunrise, while the Judean day began at Sunset. This also explains the concern that the disciples had as to where Jesus intended for them to prepare. Such preparation takes quite some time, since a lamb must be purchased, slain, prepared, and roasted, herbs prepared, and the room with a table for lounging properly set, readied.

D. The Command to Prepare The Passover (Mt. 26:1-5, 14-19; Mk. 14:1,2, 12-16; Lk. 22:1-13; Jn. 12:20-50; 13:1).

In response to the disciples' question, The Lord Jesus gave specific instructions. Luke recorded the most details of The Saviour's instructions and indicated that Peter and John were the two disciples who were sent. Therefore Peter would logically be the host and most responsible, being the oldest son of **Zehbehdai-ohs** (Zebedee) and older of the two disciples that were sent (Lk. 22:10-13 cf. Mk. 14:13-16).

E. The Concern of the Greek-speaking Jews (Jn. 12:20-28).

During the day, while certain Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews) who came to Jerusalem, journeyed from Gentile-occupied countries to observe the annual Passover in Jerusalem. They had heard about Jesus and His supernatural works and desired to see Him personally. So they approached Philip and told him of their determined intention. He informed Andrew and they in turn told Jesus. His response was a statement of Truth, "The hour has come that The Son of /Man^[The Human] be glorified^[exalted with majestic radiant splendor]" (Jn. 12:23 APT).

This was followed by the parable of the grain of wheat, its application (Jn. 12:24-26 APT), and a question with His answer, "27 Now My soul stands disturbed. And what should I say? 'Father, save Me out of this hour!'" On the contrary, because of this, I came unto this /hour 28 'Father, glorify^[exalt with majestic radiant splendor] Your^s /name!" (Jn. 12:27,28 APT). The Father's response was, "I both have glorified ^{lit} and I shall glorify ^{lit} again." there followed a discussion in the crowd (including the Hellenists) as to what occurred, thunder or an angel spoke to Him. Then more teaching and explanation ensued until dinner-time.

F. The Compliance In Preparation (Mt. 26:19; Mk. 14:16; Lk. 22:13).

And the disciples found according as He arranged, "a great upper room spread ready," and they did as he said to them. And they prepared the Passover. It was in the second evening, which is the time between sunset til dark, when they sat down to eat the Seder. While eating a new day Friday, Nisán 14th began. Then he announced His betrayal and handed the sop to Judas **Eeskahreecōtays** (Iscariot) and Satan entered into Him. Judas immediately exited. And it was night (Jn. 13:30).

G. The Celebration of The Passover Commenced (Jn. 13:1 cf. Lk. 22:14,15.).

"When His hour had come He sat down and His disciples with Him." Are we always seated in His House with Him when the appointed hour comes for partaking of The Lord's Supper. Do we meet as often as the disciples in the Early Church did, once every week ?

Conclusion:

Today we observed the events that took place on the fourth day in **The Last Week in the Life of The Lord Jesus Christ** on Thursday, 13 Nisán (April 1) A.D. 33. The day began just after Sunset c. 8:30 P.M. in Jerusalem

in the enclosed courtyard of the High Priest where the chief priests, scribes, and elders gathered and consulted together how they could abduct Jesus by deceit subtly and kill Him but not during the Festival lest it cause an uproar of the people. They were soon joined by Judas Iscariot, who came to contract with the chief priests and military leaders of the Temple custody (guard) to betray Jesus in the absence of a crowd for thirty silver shekels.

Then we observed the disciples' concern about where and when they would eat the Passover meal. Jesus chose Peter and John to prepare and gave them explicit instructions as to where to prepare. This immediate command indicated the answer as to when. Peter and John complied. In the meantime some Hellenists who travelled a distance approached Philip and expressed their determined will. The answer led to a final appeal. The day concluded with the twelve lounging at the Passover table. After Jesus announced betrayal and indicated the culprit was Judas Iscariot by handing him the sop, Judas departed. Then Jesus instituted the ordinance of The Lord's Supper for His true disciples to be constantly reminded of the cost He would pay in agonizing death under the torment of The God's Judgment of eternal fiery wrath upon Sin and sinners. He stated this second of the four key commands given to His disciples, "Repeatedly do this for the remembrance belonging to me" (Lk. 22:19 APT). Later the apostle Paul wrote, "26For as often as ever you& eat this, the bread loaf and drink this, the cup, you& thoroughly proclaim the death of The Lord until which time ever He come. " (1 Cor. 11:26 APT).

Are we eternally grateful for the death The Lord Jesus Christ suffered for us? Am I? Are you? Are we seated with Him among our church assembly with Him in our midst to remember Him often? The disciples of The Early Church met every Lord's Day for the express purpose of remembering Him as He commanded. Do you and I respond positively or negatively to this command of His?

Application:

What will you do now in response repeatedly to His Command to Remember Him in His death?

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For next week: **Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Physical Life on Earth -- The Day of Crucifixion:**

9-12 P.M.: Jn. 13:31-16:19; Lk. 22:31-39; Mk. 14:26-31; Mt. 26:{30}-35
12-2:40 A.M. : Jn. 16:20-18:1; Lk. 22:40-54; Mt. 26:31-56; Mk. 14:32-45;
Jn. 18:1-12

2:40-5:00 A.M.: Mk. 14:51-68; Jn. 18:13-23; Lk. 22:55-58; Mt. 26:58-71
5:00-9:00 A.M.: Lk. 22:63-23:32; Mk. 15:1-23; Jn. 18:28-19:17; Mt. 27:1-34
9:00-12:00 A.M.: Lk. 23:33-43; Mk. 15:24-30; Mt. 27:35-45; Jn. 19:17-30
12:00-3:00 P.M.: Mt. 27:32-56; Mk. 15:31-41; Lk. 23:44-49; Jn. 19:31-42