

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 22:1-13

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. This week, we will read Luke chapter 22. There is a great deal of material in this chapter, so we will move through it rather quickly. Many details cannot be explained thoroughly, but I will provide some reference materials. I encourage the saints to consult these references so that you may better understand the various meanings symbolized in Jesus' final Passover on earth. Today, we will read verses 1-13.

Verse 1: "Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover."

When Jesus first began His ministry, He was first baptized by John the Baptist. The first time John saw Jesus, he said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" From the very first moment he saw Jesus, John knew that Jesus was the Passover Lamb, sent by God into the world to redeem mankind from sin. Jesus Himself also understood very clearly that the entire three and a half years of His earthly ministry had been preparing for this day—preparing His disciples, preparing the people, and also preparing the world, which would rise up against Him.

Verse 2: "And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people."

At that time, the chief priests were Sadducees, while the scribes were Pharisees. These two groups were normally opposed to one another because they differed in their interpretation of Jewish tradition and even in their understanding of the Old Testament. Yet now, for the sake of killing Jesus, they united together and sought a

way to put Him to death. However, by this time Jesus had already gained the respect and support of many people. They did not dare arrest Him openly, for that might provoke a public uprising, and the chief priests would then be unable to answer to the Roman authorities. The whole world was now prepared to rise up and kill Jesus; they simply had not yet found the right opportunity.

Verse 3: “Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.”

The outside world was prepared, and now, within Jesus’ own circle, one of His disciples—Judas Iscariot—was also prepared. Prepared by whom? Prepared by Satan. Luke tells us that Satan entered Judas’ heart.

We may remember that before Jesus began His ministry, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where Satan tempted Him. This is recorded in Gospel of Luke chapter 4. Three times in succession, Jesus resisted Satan with the Word of God, and Satan found absolutely nothing in Him.

Luke 4:13 says, “Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.” Jesus continually remained with God and constantly resisted Satan through God’s Word. Therefore, Satan could no longer gain anything from Him and temporarily departed. But now Satan entered into the heart of one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot.

Satan had never abandoned his plan. Since he could not tempt Jesus directly, he turned to those around Him. Among Jesus’ disciples was Judas, who managed the money and also stole from it. Judas longed for Jesus to establish an earthly kingdom of Israel. Later, when he saw that what Jesus was doing did not match his expectations, he accepted Satan’s temptation. His heart opened itself to Satan, and Satan entered in.

Verse 4: “So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.”

The chief priests, scribes, and officials wanted to arrest Jesus but lacked the opportunity. Now Judas, who was close to Jesus and knew His movements and activities, could help them seize Jesus privately, away from the crowds. Therefore, when Judas proposed this, they were greatly pleased.

Verses 5-6: “And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.”

Luke does not record the amount here, but the other Gospels tell us it was thirty shekels. In those days, thirty shekels was the price of a slave. To Judas, that was Jesus’ worth—the value of a slave.

In fact, only a few days earlier, in the home of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary of Bethany in Bethany, Mary understood Jesus’ words and anointed Him with very costly spikenard ointment. Judas was there as well. In Gospel of John 12:5, Judas said, “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

Those three hundred denarii were nearly a year’s wages, and the ointment was likely Mary’s treasured savings, reserved for the day of her marriage. She offered her very best to the Lord Jesus. But Judas thought it was wasteful. In Judas’ estimation, Jesus was worth only thirty shekels—not worthy of such a costly offering.

Brothers and sisters, what is your estimation of the Lord? Many times, because we do not recognize the Lord’s true worth, we sell Him like a slave instead of, like Mary, offering the very best of our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to treat the Lord Jesus like a slave? Many times we ask the Lord for this or for that, and if He does not give us what we want, we become angry with Him. Is that not treating the Lord Jesus as our servant? Because Judas valued the Lord in this way, he became Judas the betrayer. May the Lord guard our hearts and

grant us a true appreciation and proper estimation of Him. He is worthy of our offering Him the very best of our lives.

Verses 7-8: “Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.’”

Jesus’ final Passover on earth presents a difficulty regarding timing. Typologically speaking, Jesus is the Passover Lamb. Passover in Israel was celebrated on the fifteenth day of Nisan, while the fourteenth day was the preparation day. Since Jesus was the Passover Lamb, He should have been prepared on the fourteenth and slain on the fifteenth. Yet if He Himself was the Passover Lamb, how could He also eat the Passover meal? This is the typological difficulty.

There is also a chronological difficulty. Traditionally, it is said that on Thursday evening of that week, Jesus and His disciples shared the Last Supper, the Passover meal. Then the next morning, Friday at nine o’clock, He was crucified. That leaves only one night in between.

Yet when we consider the combined Gospel accounts, we know Jesus was taken to the houses of Annas and Caiaphas, then brought before the Sanhedrin, tried by the Jews, sent to Pilate, then to Herod, then back to Pilate again. After Pilate’s examination, Jesus was finally crucified. All of these events seem difficult to fit into a single night.

Many Bible teachers have attempted to solve this problem. Personally, I find the explanation given by Brother Christian Chen to be the most satisfactory. He proposes that there were actually two different Passover observances at that time. Most of Jesus’ disciples were Essenes, whose Passover that year fell on Tuesday of that week, while the general Jewish Passover was determined annually by the high priest and the Sanhedrin according to the lunar calendar and fell on Friday.

If you compare the Gospel records carefully, you can find clues. For example, regarding Mary anointing Jesus with ointment, Gospel of Mark records in 14:1, “After two days it was the Passover,” and then recounts the anointing. But Gospel of John 12:1 says, “Then, six days before the Passover,” and then describes the same event. Clearly, the Passovers referred to in Mark and John are not the same date.

John records the general Jewish Passover established by the chief priests, while Matthew, Mark, and Luke record the Essene Passover celebrated by Jesus and His disciples together.

I cannot explain all the details here, so please refer to Brother Christian Chen’s book, “A Glimpse of the Life of Jesus”, where the matter is discussed thoroughly. We thank the Lord that He used the Essenes—a group of pure-hearted people who loved and followed the Lord wholeheartedly—to share with Jesus His final Passover on earth.

Verses 9-10: “So they said to Him, ‘Where do You want us to prepare?’ And He said to them, ‘Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.’”

We generally know that this Last Supper took place in the upper room of Mark, and Mark’s family were likely Essenes as well. In Jewish society, drawing water was usually a woman’s responsibility, so women commonly carried water jars. Yet here Jesus says that when they entered the city, “a man” would meet them carrying a pitcher of water.

Because many Essenes were unmarried, the ordinary household tasks were done by men. Therefore, a man carrying water was a very distinctive sign, which is why Jesus described it in this way.

Verses 11-13: “Then you shall say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”

Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready. So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.”

In Jewish tradition, Passover was a time for families to gather together. Jesus had a group of disciples who loved Him, and on His final Passover on earth they prepared everything for Him so that they could enjoy intimate fellowship together.

Just as today, every Lord’s Day, in every church, there’s also a group of people who purely love the Lord and prepare the Sunday worship service, so that God’s children may return to the household of God together to worship Him, just as Jesus’ disciples did then. Therefore, we should have thankful hearts toward the saints who serve us.

Let us pray together: Lord, help us to have a true estimation of You, knowing that You are worthy of receiving the very best of our entire lives. Thank You also for preparing a suitable spiritual home for me in the church where I am, and for the many serving saints who prepare week after week so that I may enjoy such a wonderful family life on earth. Once again we offer You our thanksgiving and worship, and we ask that You would guard my heart so that I may always remain thankful. Thank You, we pray in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ.