

最后晚餐的精心安排——马可福音 14:12-21

Meticulous Planning of the Last Supper—Mark 14:12-21

Introduction and Outline

- Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12- 21; Isaiah 55:6-10.

Mark 14:12-21 (NASB1995)

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?” 13 And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” 15 And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare for us there.” 16 The disciples went out and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover. 17 When it was evening He came with the twelve. 18 As they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me.” 19 They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, “Surely not I?” 20 And He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl. 21 For the Son of Man is to go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

- We all want to be good planners; but normally, no one can plan their own death. The death of Jesus, however, happened exactly according to his own perfect plan, as the Bible tells us.
- **John 10:10** “ No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”
- The commandment Jesus received from the Father is to die on the cross, which also includes all the careful plans he executed for this moment. A careful planner is usually regarded as a reliable and trustworthy person. All the careful planning Jesus made for the last supper shows what a reliable Savior he is.
- Outline:
 - Title: Meticulous Planning of the Last Supper—Mark 14:12-21
 - 1. Meticulously Planned Timing (v.12)
 - 2. Meticulously Planned Location (vv. 13-16)
 - 3. Meticulously Planned Conversation (vv. 17-21)

Meticulously Planned Timing (v.12)

- “On the first day of *Unleavened Bread*, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed”: Precise timing is significant. Technically, Passover is the 14th day of Nisan, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the whole week starting from the 15th. But in practice, the boundary between the two had been blurred and they essentially became synonymous. Therefore Mark clarified that it was the day “the Passover lamb

was being sacrificed,” that is, the day to eat the Passover dinner, the 14th of Nisan, which is the perfect timing planned by the Father.

【Significance】 The blood of the lamb that covered the Israelites from the plague of death foreshadowed the blood of Jesus thousand years later that covers sinners from the penalty of their sin. The punishment of sin passes over all sinners who repent and follow Jesus because the blood of Jesus covers the wrath of God.

1 Cor 5:7 “For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”

【Question】 The Passover lamb needs to be slaughtered before supper, but Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, was killed on the next day after the supper. What’s going on here?

【Explanation】 Due to historical reasons, there were two ways the Jews kept their time. Those who live in the southern part of Israel started a day at sunset, while those in the north started a day at sunrise. As a consequence, when they all gathered together in Jerusalem for the feast, they held the Passover dinner in two consecutive days. That’s why Jesus could eat the Passover dinner with his disciples and still be sacrificed as the Passover lamb and shed his blood for God’s people in the afternoon of the second day.

【Insight】 Who could have ever come up with such a perfect plan? Two ways of time-keeping, by a natural development of human history, had long been woven into God’s perfect plan of Jesus’s crucifixion. Even the most insignificant and meaningless historical details can be used by God to fulfill his amazing plan of salvation.

- “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?”: This dinner requires much preparation work. In addition to slaughtering the lamb, they had to get the unleavened bread, bitter herb, grape juice, egg, and Charoset which is a fruit sauce for the bread... But they didn’t even know where to eat. The disciples must be very anxious at this point.

Meticulously Planned Location (vv. 13-16)

- “And He sent two of His disciples”: Luke says these two were Peter and John, two of the closest disciples to Jesus.
- “you enter the city...”: No detailed description of the address. No street name, no number, not even the name of the host. The only information was a mysterious clue to guide the disciples to find the house, like something you’d see in a mystery novel. This is Jesus’s meticulous plan in order to have the meal successfully. If the word got out, Judas would’ve ruined the dinner.

Luke 22:15 “And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;”

“a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him”: This is a pre-planned secret code. At that time, it’s a woman's job to carry water, so a man carrying a pitcher of water would’ve been an effective cue. Once you see this man, “follow him”. It’s all so mysterious like something you’d see in spy movies.

【Key Point】 All these strange details are to show us the perfect wise planning of Jesus, as well as his authority to be in charge of all things. Nothing will ever disrupt his perfect timing.

- “Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”: Unless this is pre-planned, no one would’ve ever responded to such an unreasonable strange request. This is similar to a previous account where Jesus took a donkey to enter the city. (11:1-6).
- “will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare for us there”: An entire guest room has been prepared for Jesus and the 12 disciples, again showing it’s all preplanned.
- “The disciples went out and came to the city,”: They stayed at the guest room to prepare and did not come back to meet the other disciples and Jesus until dinner. Therefore, Judas had no clue where they’d have the dinner, until Jesus brought all the disciples to the guest room.

Meticulously Planned Conversation (vv. 17-21)

- “When it was evening He came with the twelve”: To be exact, Jesus came with the ten to meet the two who were already there. Now, Judas finally knew where they’d eat the Passover dinner, but it was too late to tell the religious leaders. He had to join the others for the dinner, until when Jesus decided he had enough time to finish up his teaching and sent Judas out of the table. Judas then left the table in a hurry to carry out the plan to betray Jesus (John 13:21-30)

【Key Point】 Even Judas’ timing to betray Jesus was under Jesus’ control. Before the right timing, Judas couldn’t do anything; but when the time had come, it was at Jesus’ command that Judas went out to carry out his plan.

【Principle】 It’s the same with every human sin. Nobody ever gets to commit one single sin beyond the sovereign and meticulous planning of God.

【Clarification】 Sinners sin out of their evil motives, but God sovereignly allows sin out of His kindness, to use their sin to bring about the ultimate good which is His own glory. Therefore, sinners are responsible for their own sins, but God is not culpable to allow them to sin. **God is in control of all human sins by His kind intentions.**

- “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me”: In Jewish culture, eating with someone is a very close relationship. For the past three years, the disciples have been inseparable friends eating and sleeping together. After laboring together for God’s kingdom for three years, now, one of them is a traitor? Unimaginable! But this is to fulfill the Old Testament scriptures.

Psalm 41:9 “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”

Psalm 55:12-14 “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me,
Then I could bear it;
Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me,
Then I could hide myself from him.
But it is you, a man my equal,
My companion and my familiar friend;
We who had sweet fellowship together

Walked in the house of God in the throng.”

- “They began to grieve and to say to Him one by one, ‘Surely not I?’”: The disciples would rather suspect themselves than Judas. It shows how well Judas had covered Himself all this time.

【Analysis】 The disciples were doubting themselves, not because they had an evil intention like Judas, but perhaps out of fear of unwittingly saying or doing something wrong—something that might lead to Jesus being handed over to His enemies. This kind of self-doubt reflects a healthy sense of humility and caution. Likewise, we should always remain vigilant and reflect on whether we might do something that betrays Jesus.

Consider all the pretense Judas managed to show for the past three years. When the disciples followed Jesus, Judas also followed. When they read their Bible and prayed, he also read and prayed. When they were sent by Jesus to preach the gospel, Judas was there too, preaching the gospel. When they were given the authority to perform miracles and cast out demons, Judas was also given this authority to perform miracles and cast out demons. Even here, when the disciples in humble self-doubt asked Jesus, “Surely not I?”, Judas was asking the very same question “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” (Mt 26:25)

【Insight】 If you think by any outward appearance you can tell for sure someone is a genuine Christian, you are very wrong. How much outward appearance can prove a genuine faith and love for

【Reality】 Judas never loved Jesus in his heart. He only loves himself. From the very beginning, all he wanted from Jesus is to give him what he wants. When following Jesus gets him further and further away from his own selfish desires, he’s exposed for what he really is.

- “It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl.”: This could be any disciple, for they were all on the same table with Jesus, dipping their bread in the same bowl. Jesus said this to emphasize just how shocking it is that the traitor would be one from this group.
- “For the Son of Man is to go just as it is written of Him”’: Even the sin of Judas was used by God to fulfill prophecies in the Bible. God had long woven this incident into His perfect plan.
- “but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born”’: This is actually the last sermon Jesus preached to Judas, intended to call him to repent from His deadly sin. But Judas still would not respond rightly.

Summary and Application

Having such an all-wise Savior who always has the best and perfect plan, how can we not trust and obey Him wholeheartedly in all things?