

**Text: Lk 22.14-20**

Last week we had a baptism, this week we will celebrate communion.

I've been working through Psalm 119 lately, but I noticed something in my Bible reading this week that led me to set that aside and turn that passage instead.

Our passage is one of the records of the first communion in the Bible. There was one word that caught my attention. As we read the passage, pay close attention and see if you can guess the word.

Read Lk 22.14-20

What word got my attention? *Fulfilled* in v. 16.

Lk 22.16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is **fulfilled** in the kingdom of God."

We call this passage "the Last Supper." In a few hours, Jesus will be under arrest, his disciples will have fled into the background, Jesus will suffer crucifixion and die on the cross.

Jesus didn't mean he would never *eat* again until the kingdom. He ate food on the night of the resurrection, at least. He may have eaten with the disciples on the shore of the sea of Galilee at the end of the Gospel of John. Peter speaks of eating and drinking with him after the resurrection (Acts 10.41).

But what does he mean by this expression in the middle of the last supper?

**Proposition: Our communion services have a backward and forward look.**

**I. The backward looks of Communion**

A. The last supper was a Passover meal (15)

1. The Gospels give us highlights of the meal
2. The ritual isn't significant, you can read up on it in Edersheim

B. The first Passover was the night of the Exodus

1. The children of Israel were to make unleavened bread and sacrifice a lamb
2. They were to eat with their feet shod, ready to travel

3. As they were gathered in their homes, the Death Angel visited Egypt and slew all the firstborn of every home that had no blood of the lamb on the door
4. Communion looks back all the way to the Exodus (because the Passover looks forward to the crucifixion)

### C. Our communion service primarily looks back to the crucifixion

Lk 22.19 And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**"

1 Cor 11.24-25 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**"<sup>25</sup> In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; **do this**, as often as you drink *it*, **in remembrance of Me.**"

1. Interestingly, it is Luke and Paul that give us the words, "in remembrance of me"
2. We take the communion meal to be a remembrance of what the Lord did for us on the cross

All of this is right and proper, and this is our usual perspective of communion

## II. The forward look of Communion

### A. The thing that must be fulfilled (Lk 22.16)

1. The wording suggests that the meal symbolizes something future ("until it is fulfilled")
2. The antecedent of "it" is "Passover" (Lk 22.15)
3. Passover will find fulfillment "in the Kingdom"
4. Again, Jesus says he will not drink of the cup until "the Kingdom comes" (Lk 22.18)
5. The implication is that Passover continues to look forward, even though it points immediately to the crucifixion

## B. The time of fulfillment

1. The words of our passage: “the coming of the kingdom”
2. As we understand eschatology, the Kingdom comes after the Tribulation
  - a. The church is raptured out of the world (future)
  - b. The Tribulation is the final prophetic week of history determined to try the Jews
  - c. As all hope seems lost to the remnant of Israel, the armies gather against her in Megiddo
  - d. And the Lord descends to the Mount of Olives in great power and victory
  - e. And then the Kingdom comes, the throne of David is renewed in Jerusalem, and the world is made new

## C. The nature of fulfillment

1. Jesus said he would not eat of the passover again until it is fulfilled (Lk 22.18)
2. What occurred during the Passover?
  - a. The people of God escaped the threats of Egypt unharmed
  - b. They were taken away in the cloud, then led across the sea
3. What do we look forward to?
  - a. The Lord shall descend with a shout
  - b. The dead in Christ will rise
  - c. And we that are alive and remain will be caught up with them in the air
  - d. Then comes the time of trouble

In other words, there is a hint, to me, of the Rapture in these words (not a proof, merely a hint)

Regardless, there is definitely an anticipation of the Kingdom

## Conclusion:

**Proposition:** Our communion services have a backward and forward look.

As we partake today, let's remember our Lord and let's look for our Lord. It may be today.