

**Passover Crossover**  
**Exodus 12:1-14, Luke 22: 7-20**

In 2004, independent film maker Morgan Spurlock conducted an eating experiment and made a documentary movie about it.

For one month Morgan would only eat food from McDonald's, for breakfast, lunch and dinner – eating his way through the entire menu, and taking the supersize option whenever it was offered to him, hence the film's name – “Supersize Me”

At the beginning of the experiment Morgan was in good shape and above average health, for a 32 year old male. But, after one month later he had gained 24½ lbs, his cholesterol level increased to 230, and he accumulated fat on liver.

Once the experiment was over he followed a specially supervised vegan diet to regain his health, but it still took him fourteen months to lose the weight gained from this experiment and return to normal. Friends, our food affect us.

Now, Morgan had anticipated some weight gain from this experiment, but there were some unexpected side effects as well, he had mood swings and he experienced sexual dysfunction.

You see friends – **food isn't just food is it?** It affects us, physically, mentally, emotionally and dare I say even spiritually?

You see we live with the effects of Adam and Eve's experiment to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God had expressly forbidden.

Genesis 3:6 says *the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom,*

It looked like it was nutritious and delicious, it was aesthetically pleasing – maybe a nice shape and color, and eating it would make you wise. Food is more than just food...

she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it

But Adam and Eve did not gain what they expected from eating this fruit – instead it brought shame which separated them from each other, it resulted in a broken relationship with God, and a curse upon the creation which they were supposed to develop and care for.

Food isn't just food is it? How does that saying go...**you are what you eat?**

Friends this is why God has always given His people – Those whom He has committed himself to in a covenant relationship; He has always given them a special meal as a sign of that relationship.

Because food isn't just food - and when God serves his people a meal it reminds them of this relationship and what it means for their lives.

So how did the Passover meal function in this way for the nation of Israel?

Well friends this meal was a reminder that the **LORD God had remembered the promise** and the covenant he had made to their ancestor Abraham.

God had told Abraham he would have many descendents; that they would become a great nation. He told him that they would experience slavery in a foreign land, but that He would deliver them and bring them to a land of their own – the land He showed to Abraham when He made this promise.

The Passover was also a reminder of **how God had delivered them** from slavery in Egypt.

In this meal they ate a lamb which had been sacrificed, a lamb whose blood had been painted on their doorframes of their homes. So when God came to strike down the first born of every Egyptian family as punishment for enslaving his people, God would see the blood of the lamb and his judgment would pass-over that home.

In this meal they ate bitter herbs with the roasted lamb, to remind them of the bitterness of being slaves, and they ate

bread made without yeast – bread that didn't take long to make or cook because once God's judgment had come, they would need to leave in a hurry.

So they ate this meal after dark, dressed in their cloaks and with their walking sticks in hand, waiting for God's deliverance to occur, ready to go at a moments notice.

This is how God delivered them. So God instructed them to continue to eat this meal every year, to commemorate the date of their deliverance. So that future generations would understand how God had spared Israel from judgment, delivered them from slavery and brought them into the Promised Land.

Friends, you are what you eat – Israel's identity was formed by this meal. They were a people whose ancestor, Abraham was a wandering nomad. They had been born, as a nation, in slavery. But God had rescued them and given them their land and their lives.

God was responsible for all the blessings they had, so they were to be his loyal and obedient people in response. Eating the Passover meal was to remind them of this.

However, in spite of eating this meal...the nation of Israel was often rebellious and disobedient, taking God's blessings for granted and "having dinner" with other gods instead.

*The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes to offer to the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to arouse my anger. (Jeremiah 7:18)*

You see even though they had been set free from slavery in Egypt their hearts were still in captivity to sin and rebellion, which we have all inherited as consequence of Adam and Eve's fateful meal.

Enter Jesus Christ – the promised messiah who would be the answer to this fundamental problem Israel had in their relationship with God.

Listen to how Jesus described himself to his fellow Israelites *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:35)*

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. (John 6:54)*

Friends, it sounds like Jesus is getting ready to serve another meal to the people of God, and at this meal – he will be the main course.

And that is what we see happening in the passage we read in Luke 22. Jesus tells Peter and John to go and make preparations for the Passover Meal.

And here we see Jesus flexing his sovereignty as the Son of God just a little bit – demonstrating his control over people and events in securing a fully furnished venue for where He and his disciples can celebrate the Passover.

*"Go enter the city, you'll meet a man carrying a jar of water, follow him, just tell the owner of the house the Teacher asks where is the guest room, etc..."*

Why does Jesus make these arrangements in this way? It's because Jesus knows that the religious leaders have determined that He must be killed – He has become a threat to their power which needs to be eliminated, but they could not do this in public because they were afraid of the reaction of the crowds people who followed him.

Jesus also knows that Satan has influenced Judas, and he has agreed to betray Jesus, as Luke 22:6 says he was watching *"for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present."*

What better opportunity would there be than when Jesus and his disciples would be by themselves celebrating the Passover meal.

Now as the messiah, Jesus has always known that his mission would lead him to his death – but what kind of death? You see in order for the messiah to complete the work God sent him to

do, **his death must be a willing sacrifice**, not a political assassination.

So Jesus, in His sovereignty, ensures an unknown location for the Passover meal so that he can offer his life when he chooses to do so, and so that the Passover meal will form the context for his disciples to correctly understand what he is doing by laying down his life.

This is why Jesus says to them when they have gathered together – “*I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you **before** I suffer*” (vs. 15)

Jesus is going to willingly offer himself in his death on the cross as the Passover Lamb, so that **his blood can spare them from the judgment** which God must bring upon the sin which holds them captive.

And because of what He is about to do, Jesus states that he will not eat or drink the Passover meal again until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of Heaven – just as when the Passover occurred and lamb was sacrificed before the meal began, and its blood

was painted on the doorframes to protect those inside – (Jesus uses it as an example to map out the remainder of God’s plan to save the world) Jesus was about to be sacrificed and his blood would be applied by faith to those who believed in him, another meal will be eaten and then the judgment will come.

And when the final judgment arrives, when the Kingdom of God comes in fulfillment, those who believe in Jesus will be protected by his blood and they will enter into his Kingdom - the new heavens and new earth. God’s punishment for sin will pass-over them.

When this occurs there will be a great celebration! That’s why Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven will be like a wedding banquet, and in Revelation 19:9 we discover this celebration is also called “the wedding feast of the Lamb”

Friends, Jesus is taking this meal which God gave to his people so they would remember their physical deliverance from slavery, and giving it new meaning and significance for them so they can look forward to their spiritual deliverance from sin.

But until that day comes, God's people need to be reminded that Jesus offered himself as the Passover lamb, they need a way to be reassured that Christ's blood forgives their sins, and they need to be reminded that one day the Kingdom of God will be fulfilled.

So Jesus serves them another meal – the Lord's Supper

Friends remember Jesus had said <sup>54</sup> *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.* <sup>55</sup> *For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.* <sup>56</sup> *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. (John 6)*

So Jesus takes some bread from the meal, gives thanks for it and he breaks it – just like his body would be broken on the cross. This is my body he says to them...given for you. Break bread and eat it together to remember that I am the sacrifice for your sin.

Then he takes a cup of wine, gives thanks for it and declares something astounding – this is the new covenant in my blood – and it is for you!

Friends, to truly understand what Jesus says here you need to know what happened when God established His previous covenant with the nation of Israel. The background info is in Exodus 24, it says...

*(Moses) got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel.*

<sup>5</sup> *Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD.* <sup>6</sup> *Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar.* <sup>7</sup> *Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."*

<sup>8</sup> *Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."*

Friends, Jesus takes his twelve disciples and makes a new covenant with them, sealed in his blood, represented by this cup of wine! The old covenant had been broken, Israel had

been an unfaithful partner, but God was not ready to give up on his people, **therefore a new covenant was needed.**

So Christ offers himself to be the means by which an unbreakable relationship (that's what is new – its unbreakable) between God and his people can be established, and its unbreakable because God himself acts through Christ on behalf of his people, and therefore the sin which prevents Israel, and us - from being faithful covenant partners with God can be forgiven and one day overcome completely.

**Jesus Christ takes the Passover meal** and transforms it into the Lord's Supper, serving it to his twelve disciples and therefore to all those who by faith also call themselves his disciples.

Friends the Lord's Supper is the new meal that God, in Christ serves to remind his people who they are and who they will become.

In Christ God became like us, so that one day we might become like Him.

The Lord's Supper is the promise that by faith we have the very life of Christ in us – that Christ himself nourishes us...because friends,

Food is more than just food...and you will become what you eat, so taste and see that our Lord is good. Amen