

Message #105

Luke 22:7-13

The greatest injustice, the greatest legal atrocity ever committed in a courtroom was the sentencing and crucifying of Jesus Christ. **Jesus Christ never did one thing wrong in His life.** Jesus Christ never committed any crime; Jesus Christ never sinned; Jesus Christ continually healed people and helped people and He continually taught the truth of God to people. He was the only perfect Person who ever walked on the face of this earth. He should have been the most honored Person on this earth; but that is not how it went.

Jesus Christ was hated and ultimately executed. He went to Jerusalem and instead of being treated as the King, He was executed as a criminal. This was the greatest misuse of judiciary power ever seen in history.

But here is the thing that is even more amazing; **Jesus Christ controlled every bit of this.** The One who was in charge of every single event here was Jesus Christ. What we clearly see in this text is:

JESUS CHRIST WAS IN TOTAL SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING PERTAINING TO HIS OWN DEATH.

Jesus Christ is in control of what is happening every moment of every day leading to His own crucifixion. It was not the judge sitting in that court. Jesus Christ was the One who was in control.

Had He wanted, He could have dropped everyone dead in the courtroom and walked away. **But His physical death is demanded for our eternal life.** In order for us to be saved, He had to die on that cross and He is the One in complete control of every bit of this.

Never is that point more evident than when you come to a text like this. Jesus Christ was in complete and sovereign control over everything in His life concerning His own death.

There are four sovereign facts brought out in this section that clearly show this point:

SOVEREIGN FACT #1 – Jesus Christ sovereignly selected the specific time of His own execution. *22:7*

In most death penalty cases, it is the state that determines when the person will be executed. In this case it was Jesus Christ, Himself. He determines when and where He will die. The actual time of Christ's death was no coincidence or accident; it was a carefully chosen moment in connection to the Passover.

Now the Passover instructions were originally given in Exodus 12:1-11, 14. Interpreters of the Bible have invested hundreds of hours and several pages of research in an attempt to resolve the precise time of the meal that Christ ate with His disciples as it relates to the events of the crucifixion.

The problem stems from John's account that seems to indicate that Christ was killed before the Passover meal (John 18:28; 19:13-14, 31, 42).

There have been several explanations offered for this:

1) Christ was not eating the actual Passover meal, but a Passover type of meal.

The problem is that when we read Luke 22:8, 11, 13, 15 there can be little doubt that all participants considered this to be the real Passover meal.

2) Christ knew the exact time to eat the Passover meal and the rest of the Jews ate on the wrong day.

This is a real possibility for there have been some days that were miscalculated by the Jews. Every leap year the Jews added an extra month to their calendar.

3) Passover calculations were not precise even among the Jews.

For example, some considered the Passover to be from dawn to dawn. Others considered it to be from dusk to dusk. It would be possible to eat the Passover meal at the same Passover time, yet on a different day. One person could eat it at dawn on one day and another at dusk the next day.

4) Christ instituted a new, special pre-cross Passover.

Jesus Christ is our Passover (I Cor. 5:7). In fact, Luke in this very chapter calls this a "New Covenant" (22:20).

The Greek scholar, Henry Alford, of the mid 1800's researched this from every angle and he finally concluded that our attempts to harmonize all of this end up being impossible and unprofitable.

What we may clearly know is that the specific time selected by Jesus Christ to celebrate the Passover was exactly and precisely the right time. It was on His time clock. It perfectly met all the demands of God. This was His final meal with His disciples and He is the One who controlled the very time of it.

SOVEREIGN FACT #2 – Jesus Christ sovereignly selected His preparatory disciples. **22:8-9**

Jesus Christ specifically singled out two disciples to go and prepare things for this meal. The disciples were Peter and John and both of them were very special in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Luke often mentions these two together (Luke 8:51; 9:28; Acts 1:13; 3:1-4; 4:13, 19; 8:14).

These were two key Apostles who were very special to Jesus Christ. He knew He could trust these two. They certainly were not perfect disciples. They had their own struggles now and then. John at times would rather kill people than save them (Luke 9:54) and Peter would be sifted by Satan and would deny Jesus Christ (Luke 22:31). But Jesus Christ knew these were two good, godly men who loved Him and were loyal to Him.

Their assignment here was to go and get everything ready for the Passover. This meant they had to find a place to have the meal and they needed to see to it that the meal was prepared. These were two Jewish Galilean former fishermen who were being given this responsibility.

Now the Passover meal in Jerusalem was a big event. Jews flocked to Jerusalem to celebrate. Josephus said that at one Passover in Jerusalem, a count was made that determined 256,500 lambs had been sacrificed at the temple.

So when Christ asked these two to go and prepare the meal, they responded in **verse 9** where they should go. They knew that finding a place at this late date to have this meal would not be an easy task. They had to get a lamb and the wine and herbs and a place, and they needed all of the furnishings to go with it. This was not as easy an assignment as one might think.

Jesus Christ knows who He can count on and who He cannot. He knows who He can trust and who He can't. He specifically sent these two because he knew these two could get the job done.

When they asked Him in **verse 9** where did He want them to go to prepare it, they assumed He had all the answers. They did not say "how," they said where. They knew that His assignments were His enablements. We may recall that earlier in their training, when He told His disciples to give 5,000 men plus the women and children something to eat, they responded by saying, "we don't have enough food unless we go buy some" (Luke 9:13).

By now they have matured and when He says go prepare a meal, they said, "tell us where."

SOVEREIGN FACT #3 – Jesus Christ sovereignly directed all specific details for this meal.
22:10-12

Here is an amazing glimpse and proof that "all fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form" in Jesus Christ. Only God is capable of doing what we see in these verses. Jesus Christ looks into the immediate future and He makes five exact, specific predictions of precisely what would happen before it happened:

Prediction #1 - You will be directed where to go when you have entered the city. **22:10a**

Now "the city" that He specifically refers to is Jerusalem. Nothing would happen for the disciples until they got into the city limits of Jerusalem. This is a very specific prediction and it would be fulfilled in a very specific place.

This is how the fulfillment of God's plan for a life takes place. It takes place little by little, step by step. I still believe Jesus Christ does this. He still directs people to certain cities and locations and gives them certain responsibilities. When they get to that location, things start happening, orchestrated by God.

Prediction #2 - When you get into the city you will meet a man carrying water. **22:10b**

Now typically it was a woman who carried water because she took care of the home. A lot of water was needed during Passover time to get the leaven out of the bread and most women saw to it that they had a lot on hand.

During the Passover time it was not completely uncommon for men to carry water, especially servants. When we consider the fact that about 2 million people are in the city, finding this one man who is the right man to follow would be a miracle in itself.

But Jesus is telling these disciples when you get into the city, there will be a specific man who will be at a specific spot where you are and you are to follow him.

I still believe that God directs specific people to specific places for specific ministry. But it will be a step by step process.

Prediction #3 - When you see this man carrying water you are to follow him to his house.
22:10c

This is fascinating to think about. Why didn't Jesus just tell them the address of this house and say go there? Why was it important for these two to follow the man carrying water?

One answer is Judas. Jesus is concealing this location from Judas. Judas has made a deal to get rid of Christ when the crowds are not around (**22:6**). He is looking for a "good opportunity" to betray Christ. If Judas would have heard the address, he would have contacted the authorities and they would have been waiting for Jesus at the address.

Christ was not about to be taken until the time was right. He needed to have this final meal with His disciples so He hid the location from Judas.

Prediction #4 - When you get to the house of the owner you are to say specific things. **22:11**

Apparently there would not be a lot of verbal communication between the disciples and the man as they followed him home.

Jesus tells Peter and John that when you get to his house, say, "The Teacher says to you, where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" In Greek the noun teacher has the article "the" (o didaskalos).

So this is the specific teacher who needs to be carefully identified. This is not just any teacher who wants this room; this is the God-Teacher who wants it.

Now these two disciples Peter and John had never met this man before. They have never seen him and he has never seen them. Yet the power of the word of God would be all they would need to accomplish God's will.

It is interesting that they were to begin by saying, "The teacher says to you." **Actually it was the disciples who are talking to the man, but when they accurately present the word of God, it is the same as God speaking to him.**

God had already prepared this man's heart and mind to receive the word of God and when the disciples would communicate it, it would accomplish the intended objective.

Prediction #5 - When you say this to the owner, he will show you the large upper room complete with furnishings. **22:12**

Now to actually have a home that featured a large furnished upper room, one would have to be a person of substantial means. As the owner of this home was making his fortune and building this home, I doubt he ever imagined that the Son of God will actually come to my home and use this room. But that is exactly what happened and he used what God had given him for the glory of God.

Jesus Christ not only specifically lays out the logistics, but the results. He told Peter and John the guy will show you a large upper room and you are to prepare the Passover there.

SOVEREIGN FACT #4 – Jesus Christ fulfilled everything literally and specifically. **22:13**

Everything to the letter was fulfilled exactly the way Christ predicted it. This is a very important fact to see about Biblical prophecy. Biblical prophecy is fulfilled specifically and literally.

This is exactly how the Bible is to be read and interpreted. It is to be interpreted literally.

When Jesus predicts something will happen, it will happen precisely as He has predicted. Biblical prophecy should never be interpreted symbolically or metaphorically. Biblical prophecy should be interpreted literally and specifically.

When God predicts something is going to happen, it will happen exactly the way He has predicted.

When Jesus says I will come back and rapture My people, that literally is what He will do. When Jesus says certain signs will precede Him returning to Israel, those signs will literally be seen.

When Jesus says He will reward those faithful, He literally will do that.

When Jesus says He will cause some to lose rewards, He literally will do that.

Now the most amazing thing about this Passover meal is that it is designed to illustrate His own death (22:19-20). In other words, this whole scene is all about Him dying on a cross. Yet carefully notice who is sovereignly controlling this—He is.

Now if Jesus Christ is in sovereign control of all of this, why didn't He prevent His own execution? Why didn't He just go out into the mountains alone and slip away? Why didn't He have a legion of His angels come get Him?

The answer is this: He knew that this is the only way that sinners could be saved. The only way for a sinner to have a relationship with a Holy God is through His sacrifice.

As Isaiah predicted, He was wounded for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. With His stripes we are healed.