

# **Journey Through the New Testament**

## **Luke 21-24, John 1**

### ***Series: The Resurrection and the Life***

### ***“Back to the Future”***

**4-7-19**

#### ***Introduction***

Last week’s readings took us to the final chapters of Luke and to chapter one in the Gospel of John. John 1 identifies Jesus as the Word, the light of life, and the “*lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*” Keep this *lamb* in mind as you read the Passover/Last Supper story in Luke. Jesus and the disciples were preparing for the ancient Festival of Passover when a *lamb* had to be sacrificed. Jesus used this familiar and important ritual to establish a “new covenant” which would be accomplished through the shedding of his blood on the cross. Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection would accomplish the will of the Father, providing the way of salvation for all people. His mission on earth would then be completed.

We celebrate and participate in “the new covenant” when we share in Holy Communion. Understanding the history and significance of Jesus’ life and the rituals of our faith, can deepen our life in Christ. John 1 echoes the theme of the new covenant as well. Jesus came into the world in human flesh and blood to bring divine light and life into the darkness of sinful humanity. Through Jesus, we are set free from sin and become “children born of God” and enter into the eternal story of God.

***Lesson Notes:*** When the Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt, God called Moses to lead them out of slavery but Pharaoh refused to let them go. God sent plagues to persuade Pharaoh to release them. The tenth and final plague was the angel of death that would pass through the land killing every firstborn son. The Hebrew people were instructed to prepare a meal of roasted lamb, unleavened bread and wine. They were to mark their door posts with the blood of the lamb as a sign of their obedience to God. The angel of death would then “pass over” their homes sparing their firstborn. After the death of his son, Pharaoh set the Hebrews free. (Exodus 12) Since that time, Jews have celebrated Passover with a symbolic meal of lamb, unleavened bread, wine and other special foods to celebrated their freedom and salvation.

***Bible Study Luke 22:7-22 (CEB)***

***What?***

1. What was the setting as Jesus and the disciples gathered in Jerusalem? (v. 7-13)
2. What made Jesus “eager” to eat the Passover meal with his disciples? (v. 14-18)
3. What new meaning did Jesus give to the bread and the cup of wine in the Passover meal? (v. 19-21)

***So What?***

1. So, in what way was Jesus the Passover *lamb of God*? (John 1:29)
2. Read Romans 6:20-23. In the new covenant through Christ’s blood, what are we set free from? The wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_. The gift of God is \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ.
3. So, what must the disciples have thought when Jesus broke from Passover tradition and offered a new understanding for the future?
4. The “old covenant” was based upon keeping the law of Moses. What is the “new covenant” based upon?

***Now What?***

1. Now what do we do to remember Christ’s sacrifice and to experience his grace as we participate? (Think sacrament)
2. Now what is clearer to you about the history and meaning of Holy Communion?
3. Now what can you do to appreciate and to more fully participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion?
4. How does Holy Communion portray the essence of this series: “The Resurrection and the Life?”

***Lesson Notes:*** Communion spiritually nourishes us in our journey of salvation. It is more than just symbolic remembrance. The visible symbols of bread and cup become channels of God’s grace to us. (Gale Carlton Felton, *This Holy Mystery*)

***Holy Communion***

***New Covenant***

***Eucharist***

***Means of grace***

***Salvation***

***Forgiveness of Sins***

***Mystery***

***Outward signs of an inward grace***