**The Last Seder/The First Lord’s Supper**

Luke 22:7-23

We call this the “Last Supper,” but we could also call this the Last Seder.

For the Jews, a day started at sundown.

This is Thursday night.

“Eating the Passover” is actually a reference to the Seder, which was a meal at which the Passover lamb was eaten, as well as unleavened bread, bitter herbs and wine.

But this Passover meal/Seder was celebrated one day early, which we know because there was no lamb at this Seder. Why? Because Jesus is our Passover Lamb. (He would be dead by the customary time of the Passover)

Imagine you are Thomas or Andrew

v. 14-16 “I have eagerly desired to eat this Seder with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

Thomas to Andrew: “What is this fulfillment he talking about?” Fulfillment of what?

Andrew: “I have no idea!”

v. 17-18 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Andrew to Thomas: What does THAT mean?

Thomas: Yeah, When will the kingdom of God come? How will it come?

Andrew: You tell me!

v. 19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

Did you ever wonder why we do the bread first, but in Luke the wine comes first?

Here is the deal. At the Seder, there were three different cups of wine. The first was at the beginning of the meal. The second was during the meal. The third cup of wine was taken “after supper.” This cup was known to the Jews as the “cup of salvation.” This third cup, the one “after supper,” (Matthew 26:27, Mark 14:24, 1 Cor 11:25 “after supper he took the cup…”

But back to Luke

Andrew: “This is my body?” What in the world is he talking about? (hold up a piece of unleavened bread: “this is my body”)

Thomas: I am so confused. Jesus often talks in mysterious metaphorical ways. Maybe we can ask him later.

Luke 22:20 In the same way, after the Seder he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

Thomas: This cup is my blood? What in the WORLD is he talking about. Wine is blood? We Jews do not ever eat or drink blood. How gross to compare wine to blood!

Andrew: Yeah, and what is this new covenant he is talking about?

Thomas: Why would we need another covenant. Jesus said that he is the fulfillment of the Law/Covenant.

Maybe he will explain it later. Let’s ask him when we can.

So, that is the Last Seder, but it was not the first Lord’s Supper (which, after all, is a remembrance). We do not have an account of it, so excuse me as I create my own version of the event.

Now, fast-forward the tape. It is the first Sunday after the Day of Pentecost.

THIS is the first Lord’s Supper.

Let’s assume that John oversaw this communion celebration.

Remember what Jesus said just eight weeks ago?

v. 14-18 “I have eagerly desired to eat this Seder with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God. After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Thomas: Wow!!! He was talking about what happened last Sunday at Pentecost!!!

The kingdom of God has come with power. That is what he meant as he passed the cup.

Then John passed around the bread: Remember when Jesus took the bread. He gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to us, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

Andrew: This is my body…. (holding real bread) Oh my! He was talking about his literal body. We had no idea. Now I get it. He was talking about his body that was nailed to the cross.

Then John passed the cup around the room. Remember that in the same way, after the Seder he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

Thomas: Phew…. Jesus was talking about his crucifixion. That is what he wants us to remember. How could we ever forget that! Jesus died for us. He died to show us God’s love. He showed up the powers and authorities who hoped to destroy him and his message through killing them. But he overcame death. He does not want us to ever forget!!!! Could our memory of that event ever fade?

Andrew: We will NEVER forget Jesus’ body, hung on the cross, and the blood that flowed down the cross and was absorbed in the ground at its foot.

Thomas. And then I put my finger into his side. No, we will NEVER forget! We owe him our souls.

Andrew: Yeah, and then he rose on the third day. Not only do we participate in his death at baptism, we also participate in his resurrection.

Thomas: That explains why we celebrate this remembrance on Sunday!