

That The World May Know: The Path to the Cross – Session 4: The Last Passover

Learning to “Remember”

The Bible is filled with exhortations to “remember.” God remembers, Israel must remember, and during his last Passover Jesus instructed his disciples to do as he did in order to remember. To the ancient Hebrews, remembering was to recall and to relive a past experience as if they were there and to act accordingly in obedience. To remember involves intense focus on something or someone in the past that leads to an active response today.

1. God remembers many things and acts accordingly. What is God remembering? What actions does he take as a result?
Genesis 8:1
Genesis 9:8 – 16

Numbers 10:1 – 9

Deuteronomy 9:25 – 29
Genesis 17:1 – 8

Psalm 105

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34

Hosea 9:1 – 9

Luke 1:46 – 55
2. Sometimes God chooses not to remember—to not act on things in his memory. What does God choose not to remember? What actions does he take as a result?
Isaiah 43:25

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34
Hebrews 8:10 – 13

Ezekiel 33:12 – 16

Passover: Forever Linked to God’s Redemptive Story

Imagine how the ancient Hebrew slaves felt when God revealed that he would send a final plague that would result in Pharaoh driving them out of Egypt. Imagine how careful they would have been to follow every detail of the ritual God commanded to ensure that the death angel would “pass over” their houses and spare their firstborn!

1. Which specific actions did God command his people to do in preparation for the angel’s “passing over?”
Exodus 12:1 – 28

How did God want his people to remember this day in the future?

How important is it to God that his people continue to relive and pass on the memory of Passover to future generations?

How many times did he say to celebrate it as a lasting ordinance?
2. In God’s view, “remembering” Passover was not just learning that an historical event occurred. What response and actions did God expect from his people as a result of their remembering?
Leviticus 11:45
Leviticus 19:33 – 37
Leviticus 22:31 – 33
3. How might our understanding and appreciation of the sacrifice Jesus made for us be enhanced if we were to focus on the “Lord’s Supper” and allow it to be as real and influential in our lives as Passover has been for the Jews?

Jesus’ Last Passover Supper

Passover was—and still is—a reminder of God’s redeeming love for his enslaved children. As Jesus celebrated the Passover Seder with his disciples, he used it as a backdrop to help them understand and remember His act of redeeming love for all humanity. The Seder in the upper room portrays the past and the future. Jesus used the Passover as a metaphor to reveal how God’s plan of redemption would unfold.

1. Before Passover, on the tenth day of the first month, what did families do in preparation for the celebration?
Exodus 12:1 – 5

What did Jesus do on this day?
Luke 19:28 – 38
John 12:12 – 15

How did Jesus’ presence in Jerusalem on “lamb selection day” fit with His mission? How he already had been identified?
John 1:29 – 36
2. When Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, he took off his outer clothing and later put on his clothes. Rabbis of Jesus’ day often illustrated what they taught by what they did as they taught. How does this illustration relate to what Jesus taught earlier about being willing and having the authority to “lay down” his life and take it up again?
John 10:14 – 18

How did John later express to Jesus’ followers the importance of our willingness to lay down our lives for others?
1 John 3:16 – 18

God's Four Promises

God gave Moses four promises to proclaim to the enslaved Hebrews (Exodus 6:6 – 7). Before Jesus' time, these promises—and the four cups of wine to symbolize them—had become the organizing theme of Seder practice. In using cups of wine to portray his messianic mission that linked the blood of Passover lambs to His blood. Jesus created a sacramental experience for His disciples organized around the themes of a Passover Seder.

1. Which four promises did God command Moses to give the ancient Hebrews?
Promise 1

Promise 2

Promise 3

Promise 4
2. There were four cups of wine. What did the cups celebrate?
Cup 1

Cup 2

Cup 3

Cup 4
3. Jesus did not drink from the fourth cup, the assuring symbol of God's continuing and protective love. What dangers would he soon face as he took the sins of humanity on Himself, thus separating Himself from His heavenly Father?

Teach Your Children

To forget the story of the Hebrew's slavery and their forty-year desert journey to the Promised Land would be to risk losing sight of whom God is and all that he had taught his people. So the Torah commands parents to use the Seder rituals as opportunities to teach children their identity as God's people and to help them remember God's mighty acts of deliverance. It was the father's duty to answer his children's question concerning the Passover celebration.

1. What at the four questions the children are to ask during the Passover Seder? What are the answers?
Exodus 12:25 – 27
Exodus 13:5 – 10
Exodus 13:14 – 16
Deuteronomy 6:20 – 25
2. In addition to teaching our children to remember the mighty acts and faithful love of God, we also must teach them to look forward to the fulfillment of Jesus' promises. What is the great and glorious promise of Jesus?
John 11:25 – 26

What impact did the fulfillment of that promise have on the women who went to Jesus' tomb? What were they to do?
Mark 16:1 – 7

What has the resurrection of Jesus given us?
1 Peter 1:1 – 9

How can you remember and keep this hope alive in your heart and in the hearts of your children as we journey through the "deserts" of our lives?

References

Genesis 8	Genesis 9
Genesis 17	Genesis 26
Exodus 6	Exodus 12
Exodus 13	Exodus 24
Leviticus 3	Leviticus 7
Leviticus 11	Leviticus 17
Leviticus 19	Leviticus 22
Leviticus 23	Numbers 10
Numbers 15	Deuteronomy 4
Deuteronomy 5	Deuteronomy 7
Deuteronomy 9	Deuteronomy 11
Deuteronomy 16	Joshua 1
Joshua 4	Joshua 5
1 Kings 8	2 Chronicles 3
Psalms 16	Psalms 77
Psalms 105	Psalms 113
Psalms 114	Isaiah 25
Isaiah 43	Jeremiah 2
Jeremiah 31	Ezekiel 33
Hosea 2	Hosea 9
Malachi 4	Matthew 7
Matthew 21	Matthew 26
Matthew 27	Matthew 28
Mark 14	Mark 16
Luke 1	Luke 2
Luke 14	Luke 19
Luke 21	Luke 22
Luke 23	Luke 24
John 1	John 2
John 6	John 10
John 11	John 12
John 13	John 14
John 15	John 16
Acts 1	Acts 2
Acts 13	Romans 12
Romans 15	1 Corinthians 5
1 Corinthians 10	1 Corinthians 11
1 Corinthians 12	Ephesians 1
Ephesians 5	Colossians 1
Colossians 3	1 Peter 1
2 Timothy 2	1 Peter 1
2 Peter 3	Hebrews 4
Hebrews 8	Hebrews 9