To Seek and to Save#4 “Identity in Christ” Luke 22: 7-20

**Intro**: One thing that Jesus earnestly desires to do with his disciples before the Suffering starts. “***with desire I have desired***” --- like homesick boy longing for his momma’s home cooked meal --- Share the Passover Meal Together.

**Luke 22: 7-20** It is Thursday of His Passion week.

* Teaching the people. Constant conflict with leaders
* “*The stone that the builders rejected, become the cornerstone!*

His enemies are biding their time, they have bargained with Judas and the betrayal is in the works. Important! He wants to forever establish a memorial, a reminder for His disciples --- **Who We Are**.

***Passover*** used 5 times in first 8 verses we read. Passover was a commemoration of great Saving Act of God that established Hebrews as His People. The Passover lamb was slain and the Exodus Began.

The Passover Meal was all about Identity --- ***Who We Are, because of What God Did*** --- Their Identity as God’s Covenant People.

Jesus declares Our New Identity as His Disciples. Never forget ***Who You Are because of What I am about to Do!***

**Read Luke 22: 7-20**

Note: Vs. 10 – Men did not carry water. Aware of Judas’s plans.

 Vs. 15 – with desire I have desired (strong language)

 “pasko” = absolute use of suffering for whole event.

 “***Before I Suffer***” = Passion Week

**t/s** – If you have a life-changing relationship with Jesus --- Born Again Your Identity is found in Him. He has a deep desire that you live knowing clearly, even passionately, ***Who You Are***.

**We are One Family with Jesus as our Head**. (14-15)

**Exp** – The Passover was a family meal. Close kinsmen, household

 Gathered at Table to remember their common heritage.

 **Vs. 11** – Jesus is head of His new Family.

 “***Apostles***” – unusual for Luke (prefers disciples)

 They are here representative of us all – new Family.

 ***WITH*** – With Him… With you… Fellowship Meal.

**ILL** – We have a Fellowship Meal on Wednesdays. Why?

* Table Fellowship establishes Connection.
* ***Breaking Bread Together***… sharing meals

**App** – The Lord’s Table **declares** our common Identity in Christ.

 Maundy Thursday at 7:00 – Please Be Present at Table!

 (***As if Christ prepared a meal and invited you to come***)

**We share One Future with Jesus as our King**. (16-18)

**Exp** – Jesus mentions the Kingdom of God twice during the Passover.

 Both times He refers to the Future – the Consummation of the Kingdom of God --- The fullness of His Reign over All.

* ***Passover Fulfilled*** = We are Set Free Fully, Forever
* ***Until the Kingdom comes***… Already; Not Yet!

This present gathering reminds us of a future gathering!

End Times Celebration, Banquet, Feast for All God’s People.

Jesus often used language from Isaiah to describe this Hope.

 **1 Corinthians 11:26**

 **ILL** – Bus kid and Lord’s Supper… A Little disappointed

**ILL** – Working for Dad… dirty, hurried, sandwich lunch… OK;

 What kind of meal when the work was done and we went home!

**App** – **At the Table - *Here and Now… Reminds us of Then and There***

* 29 young Missionaries to hard Places this week!

 We have such a short-sighted, self-centered Christianity.

 Focus not Now, Then. Not Here, There… We are still in Field!

*Let us love our God supremely, Let us love each other too;*

 *Let us love and pray for sinners, Till our God makes all things new.*

*Then He’ll call us home to heaven, At His Table we’ll sit down;*

 *Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around!*

**t/s** – The Lord’s Supper looks forward and Back… ***Remember***

**We have One Foundation – Jesus the Lamb of God** (19-20)

**Exp** – “***New Covenant***” speaks of a New Foundation for Relationship.

 It echoes back to Exodus. God established covenant with Israel when Moses sprinkled them with the blood from altar.

 It is fulfillment of J***eremiah***’s promise of a ***New Covenant*** that would bring about Heart Change and **Forgiveness** of sins.

Every word is important here; let’s take our time (**Vs. 19-20**)

“***Cup***” = Salvation and Judgment… Salvation through Judgment/wrath

“***Poured Out***” – speaks to violent death in biblical vocabulary

My body **FOR** you; My blood **FOR** you…. Substitutionary atonement.

Jesus Interprets the Significance of His Work on the Cross.

His deep desire is that we understand what happened at Calvary.

**Ephesians 1:7**

**App** – Our New Covenant is in His Blood. There is no Christianity There is no Family, no Future, no Foundation without Cross.

Sometimes we live like we have forgotten Who We Are!