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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Jesus Institutes the New Covenant Mark 14:17-25; Heb 8:6-7, 10-12

Lesson Background and Introduction

The story of Jesus eating the Passover meal with his disciples before his death is a turning point in the gospel story. After Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah in Mark 8:29, Jesus began warning his disciples of his coming death and resurrection (8:31; 9:31; 10:33, 34). Yet they did not understand these warnings (9:32). For them, the Christ must triumph over his foes militarily, replacing the rule of the Gentile nations with the rule of God (Acts 1:6). Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when he was given the welcome of a king before the Passover, must have been a high mark of that expectation. Surely Jesus was to be the one to renew David's kingdom (Mark 11:7-10)! The Passover that followed a few days later must have been tinged with this expectation. But Passover observances were always both joyous and solemn. Each of its elements was intended to remind participants of God's triumph over Egypt. For example, bread made without leaven (yeast) was a reminder of the haste with which the meal was prepared in anticipation of leaving the land of slavery (Exodus 12:15, 17-20, 33, 34). The annual celebration of Passover affirmed for Israel that God had liberated them and made them his people (12:42). The resulting covenant was the expression of God's actions, promises, and expectations for his people. God's covenant with Israel had begun with Abraham (then known as Abram; see Genesis 15:18-21) and was affirmed for the entire nation at Sinai (Exodus 24:1-8). But that covenant ended up being broken time and again. A new one was needed.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The existence of a better covenant (Heb. 8:6) - The Jewish Christians, who were quite familiar with the old covenant, needed to know of the new covenant's superiority because of its better promises. A certain pizza restaurant likes to point out that its pizzas are better because the ingredients are better. The new covenant is better because its promises are better.

The need for a better covenant (Heb. 8:7-9) - The former covenant, presented through the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament, was established by the Father before the Son came to earth. It was a good covenant, and it served its purpose; but it was insufficient to meet the needs of God's chosen people. The offerings of goats and calves could not wash away their sins. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was the only One able to inaugurate a covenant that does. The old covenant was first made with Abraham. The new covenant with Israel is based on the death of the Lord Jesus (Jer. 31:31-33). The author was showing one of the relationships between the old and new covenants. Since Jesus had come to earth to seek and to save the lost, both Jews and Gentiles are included and can benefit (Rom. 1:16).

The characteristics of the better covenant (Heb. 8:10-12) - The new covenant, established by Christ, is drastically different from the old. Christ made it possible for Jew and Gentile alike to accept God's salvation during the church age. There is more! The better covenant has an application for the future. Prophecy and the end times are involved. The writing of the law in the hearts of the people is included. The entire nation of Israel will turn to the Lord when Christ returns to earth. Hebrews 8:11 -12 describes the situation on earth during the millennium, when the King of kings will rule the world for a thousand years (Ps. 2:6-9; Zech. 14:9). The truths set forth here fit perfectly with all the prophecies in the Old Testament about the end times. Read Psalm 72.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Christ's sacrifice is exactly what God desired and our sin required

HYMN FOR THE WEEK:
Oh, precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
—Lowry

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises
(Heb 8:6 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 04, 1995)

Series: Covenant in God

UNIT: A Fulfilled Covenant

NEXT WEEK

Jesus Seals the New Covenant

(Mark 15:6-15,25-26,33-39)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Betrayal Before the New Covenant (Mark 14:17-21)

Betrayal usually comes from within (17-18)

It is one's own evil desires that causes temptation to grow into sin (James 1:13-15)

It is the evil inside of a man that makes him unclean (Mark 7:20-23)

All fights and quarrels come from desires that battle within a person (James 4:1-3)

Responses to betrayal (19)

When the disciples heard that Jesus was going to be betrayed, they were filled with grief (Matt 17:22-23)

Judas, who betrayed Jesus, hanged himself when he realized he betrayed an innocent Jesus (Matt 27:3-5)

The Bible teaches that when betrayed, stand firm in our faith in God (Luke 21:16-19)

Warning about betrayal (20-21)

Do not trust those who are hypocritical betrayers (Jer 12:6)

Don't worry about those who betray, just put our hope in God (Mic 7:5-7)

Satan is behind a lot of betrayals, but we must be faithful even to the point of death (Rev 2:10)

Jesus says to not worry about others who might betray, but to follow Him (John 21:20-22)

Elements of the New Covenant (Mark 14:22-25)

The bread

Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:48-51)

Jesus is the Word of life (1 Jn 1:1-2)

The Word of life became flesh in the form of Jesus (John 1:14)

God offers spiritual food without cost (Isa 55:1-2)

The cup

From the beginning God stated that the blood was for the forgiveness of sins (Lev 17:11)

Only God's blood is powerful enough to cover ALL sins (Heb 9:13-15)

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb 9:22)

The future

Observe until we are judged on all that we do based on our motives (1 Cor 4:5)

Our job while we are waiting is to continue to do His will (1 John 2:28)

The Inadequacy of the Old Covenant (Heb 8:6-7)

Proved by an inferior priesthood (6)

Inferior because of having to repeat their duties and sacrifices over and over again without taking away sin (Heb 10:11)

Inferior because of having to offer sacrifices for their own sins (Heb 7:27-28)

Inferior because of their weaknesses (Heb 5:1-3)

Inferior because of their sins and wickedness (1 Sam 2:22-25)

Inferior because they sometimes profaned God's holy things (Ezek 22:26)

Proved by the introduction of a new covenant (7)

A New Covenant that was introduced through Jesus' blood (1 Cor 11:23-26)

A New Covenant that is mediated by Jesus (Heb 9:13-15)

A New Covenant that was illustrated by the two women of Hagar and Sarah (Gal 4:21-31)

A New Covenant that is made in the hearts and mind (Heb 10:15-18)

The Blessings of the New Covenant (Heb 8:10-12)

Inward transformation (10)

Transformation through being born again (John 3:3-8)

Transformation through God's Word (1 Peter 1:23)

Transformation into a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

Transformation that is a renewal day by day (2 Cor 4:16)

Transformation by the renewing of the mind (Rom 12:2)

Transformation into a pure heart and a steadfast spirit (Ps 51:10)

True understanding (11)

Understanding given by Jesus (1 John 5:20)

Understanding through the knowledge of God (2 Cor 4:6)

Understanding that is hidden in Jesus (Col 2:2-3)

Understanding that comes from the mind of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:13-16)

Understanding through anointing (1 John 2:27)

Lasting forgiveness (12)

Lasting forgiveness because God blots out our transgressions (Isa 43:25)

Lasting forgiveness because God is faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9)

Lasting forgiveness because through Jesus' sacrifice, He has made us perfect forever (Heb 10:14)

Lasting forgiveness because God is able to save completely (Heb 7:25)

Lasting forgiveness because Jesus was sacrificed once for all (Heb 9:28)