



LESSON 146 - MARK 14:22-25

And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

This addition to what is termed the last supper took place after Judas had left the upper room. (Jn 14:30-31) It is easy to confuse this part with the passover meal, which took place first. Judas went to get the temple soldiers the chief priests had promised him for the seizing of Jesus, if Judas would show them where Jesus was. While Judas was gone, Jesus instituted what is now known as communion, described in 1 Cor 11:23-34. The bread and wine were symbols of His body and blood which very shortly would be sacrificed for their and our redemption. He blessed the elements by giving thanks for them and all that His Father had provided to bring Him to this place and time.

1. How did this ritual speak of the fulfillment of the first part of Isaiah 9:6: "...unto us a son is given..."?
2. What was this new sacrament?

Possible answers

1. Isaiah 9:6: ..."For unto us a child is born...", prophesied the Son of God's birth; the Messiah would be born into human flesh. This was fulfilled Jesus' birth by the virgin Mary through the work of the Holy Spirit. (Lk 1:26-35) The angels announced His birth. (Lk 2:10-12) "...Unto us a Son is given..." prophesied His death, the Sacrifice of His body to save the world, as John the Baptist would proclaim: "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world." (Jn 1:29) The fulfillment of that prophecy of the Messiah, made almost 800 years before, was to take place the next day in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Son of God, with His Father's blessing, voluntarily gave Himself as a ransom to pay the penalty of sin which, not He, but humanity was under.

2. Jesus was establishing a new covenant with His disciples. A covenant consisted of several things, among which were: promises made (Christ promised those who entered into this new covenant would have, among other things, eternal life), a sign of the covenant in the flesh (the scars of the wounds of the cross), a seal of the covenant (the giving of the Holy Spirit), and a covenant meal. Communion, as we now call it, is the covenant meal which commemorates His death for us, the giving of Himself for our ransom and redemption, and our acceptance and remembrance of entering into that covenant. The covenant meal, or communion, has many implications and blessings associated with the taking of it, and is a sacred event for believers.

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