

# MARK

## READ ALOUD: MARK 14:12-25

### Pursue & Practice

#### Quick Passover History:

In our text this week, Mark 14:12-25, the author tells the story of Jesus and his disciples preparing and celebrating the Passover. During Passover, the Jewish people remember the work of God to deliver them from slavery in Egypt. In the first Passover, the Jewish people put the blood of a lamb on the door frames so that the Lord would "pass over" their home and not permit the destroyer to kill their firstborn. Each year, they remember this work and hope for the coming Messiah to deliver them finally. **In our text, Jesus makes it clear that he is willingly the Passover Lamb, and through his blood, a new eternal covenant is established between God and man.**

As we begin our text, verses 12-21 tell the story of Jesus sending his disciples to prepare for the Passover celebration and Jesus's prediction of Judas's betrayal. These stories remind us that there is nothing outside of Jesus's control. Not what has happened or will come to pass (betrayal, trial, lies, suffering, death, etc.). This is a reminder that no one outsmarts him, overpowers him, surprises him, or even takes his life from him. Instead, he will lay it down - and raise it up - **willingly**.

- **It can be easy to forget Jesus's sovereign freedom in the upcoming story of his death. How does seeing Jesus's choice to allow the things that will come to pass to come to pass for the purpose of salvation affect your faith?**
  - Spend a few minutes as a group thanking Jesus for his willingness to lay down his life for sinners.
- **Also, in this story, we see that while God is sovereign over all things, humans are still responsible for what we do (v.17-21). How do these verses serve as a warning for us?**
  - *Hints: How close was Jesus's betrayer to him? How long had he spent with Jesus? Was he sent out like the rest of the disciples to do the ministry of Jesus (6:7-13)?*

Lastly, Jesus uses the means before him, bread and wine, to once again tell them about the coming cross and kingdom. The bread represents his body, and the wine his blood. Jesus indicates that his future work on the cross is a covenant - a promise, sealed in blood, that will unite God and his people forever. The old covenant was established when Moses threw the blood (a symbol of life) of sacrificed animals on the people as they promised to keep his commandments. The prophets of the Old Testament later said that God would establish a new covenant with his people. Jesus is saying in Mark that that promised day has come! This new covenant will be purchased and sealed by the blood of the Lamb of God (Jesus), slain for sinners.

- **Jesus's blood does not stain but instead cleanses. In fact, it *removes* the stain of sin forever. However, as believers, sometimes we can forget that it is nothing but the blood of Jesus that washes us. How do you look to other things to remove the stain of sin from your heart and life?**
  - What would it look like for you to entrust yourself more fully to the finished work of Jesus?
- **Spend a few minutes as a group thanking Jesus for his work on the cross, for his body broken and his blood spilled for your salvation!**

### Proclaim

Some people in our lives don't have the peace and comfort of Jesus's salvation by his blood. This is truly heartbreaking. Have each group member choose someone they want to pray for to be saved. Have each group member pray for that person - in light of what we studied today - asking for their salvation!