

## The Gospel of Luke

### The Last Passover

Luke 22:7-16

#### 1. **The Place of the Meal** (vs.7, 14a)

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is one of three annual festivals that the entire nation was to celebrate together (Ex. 23:14-17). This is a week long celebration which followed the observance of the passover meal (Lev. 23:5-8). The first two days of the festival were uniquely holy (Num. 28:16-18, 25), and religious Jews would have been intentional to remain ceremonially clean for the festival's duration so as not to miss out on any of the celebration (cf. Jn. 18:28). Jesus and His disciples ate the passover meal on Thursday evening prior to his arrest and execution on Friday which was the first day of the feast of passover and the day of preparation for the sabbath (cf. Jn. 19:14; Mk. 14:52).

#### 2. **The Preparation of the Meal** (vs.8-13)

There were many things which had to be done in order for Jesus and His disciples to eat the passover meal, and this included securing a location in Jerusalem (Dt. 16:5, 7), ensuring there was no leaven in the house (Ex. 12:15), procuring the bitter herbs to be eaten with the meal (Ex. 12:8), and having the lamb sacrificed in the evening (Dt. 16:6) so that it can be specifically prepared (Ex. 12:9-10) and the meal can be eaten that evening. The meticulous care required of the disciples for this meal is matched by the precise and detailed instructions given to them by the Lord.

#### 3. **The Partakers of the Meal** (v.14)

All twelve of Jesus' apostles were gathered together with Him for this final passover before which Jesus washed their feet (Jn. 13:10-11). Judas was determined (Jn. 13:2) and had already conspired to betray Jesus (Mt. 26:15-16), but remained through the passover and left shortly after Jesus again predicted His betrayal (Lk. 22:21-23) and privately disclosed to John that it is Judas who will betray Him (Jn. 13:21-30).

#### 4. **The Priority of the Meal** (vs.15-16)

Jesus greatly desired to observe Passover with His disciples for many reasons. He had still much to teach them (Jn. 13:31-17:26), including the command to observe the Lord's Supper (vs.17-20), and He was nearing the final phase of His ministry and the reason for which He had long ago set His face to go to Jerusalem (Lk. 9:51; cf. Acts. 2:22-23).