



Taken, Blessed, Broken, Given

Mark 14:12-26 | Joseph Carlson | March 19, 2023

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." Psalm 34:8

Takeaways:

- 1) Have you accepted Jesus' gracious invitation to God's transgressive table where women, children and disciples who will all abandon and betray him are made welcome? You are welcome at the feast no matter what you've done.
- 2) Are we modeling by our table/life practices the ministry of Jesus? The power to do this, to be taken, blessed, broken and given is only possible by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus had a reputation as a "glutton and a drunkard" (Matt 11:18-19)

New Testament scholar N. T. Wright captured something of this sentiment when he wrote, "When Jesus himself wanted to explain to his disciples what his forthcoming death was all about, he didn't give them a theory, he gave them a meal."

Jesus:

- Importance of foreknowledge: he is not a tragic hero nor a passive victim. He is an empowered moral agent, purposefully walking the path of obedience and willing sacrifice.

Lodging:

- Some argue for an Essene compound. Man carrying water and rules of hospitality.
- Perhaps broader support for it being the same Upper Room referenced in Acts 1:13 and 12:12 which means it would have been the house of Mary, mother of John Mark, the probable author of the second gospel.

Passover:

- Celebration of divine provision/intervention
- Economic and political liberation from Egypt
- Exodus 12:3-4 instructs gathering family and neighbors for Passover of family is too small.
- Women and children were present: 15:41 "many women accompanied him to Jerusalem", large room, clarification that the betrayer was one of the 12

- Remembering and anticipating. Remembering Exodus liberation from oppression, anticipating arrival of Messiah. Progressive freedom.
- Hallel Psalms 115-118 - extolling his goodness, provision, blessing...his enduring love and his active protection on behalf of his people

Significance:

- The only prerequisite to the meal is NEED.
- The last supper is attended to by traitors and cowards: it is a table of radical grace and generosity. John 15:13 Greater Love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
- Blood of the covenant: how covenants were sealed
- Exodus 24:8 "Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Taken/Chosen:

Jesus' willingly chose the path before him. Because of that, our chosenness grounds our identity. We are not what we do, nor what has been done to us, we are empowered Children of God capable of modeling Jesus' courageous path of free choice and obedience. This does not create exclusion. Either or. Us vs them. It instead generates a movement of love that seeks to move out in love and to include.

Blessed:

Jesus was Blessed before his ministry was inaugurated, not after he had accomplished much. Romans 5:8 While we were still sinners, Christ Died for us.

Broken:

The willing acceptance of the path of suffering is a hallmark of the Christian faith: martyrdom, costly discipleship, a willingness to accept and befriend the suffering you have endured.

Given:

Jesus gave his life to be a ransom for many. The way of Christ, the essence of what it means to be a Christian is measured in self-sacrificial love.