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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the  
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

## Christ going to Passover A Message for Adults

Week of Sunday 9 April, 2017 A.D.  
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Sunday 13 Nissan, 5777

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- **Text:** Luke 22: 7-13 ASV

7 And the day of unleavened bread came, on which the passover must be sacrificed. 8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and make ready for us the passover, that we may eat. 9 And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we make ready? 10 And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house whereinto he goeth. 11 And ye shall say unto the master of

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the house, The Teacher saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? <sup>12</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. <sup>13</sup> And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

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- Where the Passover was celebrated is a question given no answer. The account given is very general; few specific details are included. Comparing several narratives of the Gospel, we learn that Jesus, early in the day, told two of His disciples, Peter and John, to go into the city. Therefore, Jesus and His disciples were still outside of it. At a given place, they were told, they would meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. He is the man they must ask about the place in which the Master can celebrate the

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Passover. They will find him perfectly willing to direct them to a house, where a guest chamber, suitable for this purpose, will be prepared for them. God in His Providence supplied a room whose atmosphere and convenience suited the sanctity of the purpose.

- Jesus sends out Peter and John to take an option on another man's property, and that without anything resembling a formal transaction. The occasion reminds us of that other day on which Jesus sent out two disciples

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to take possession of a colt. On that day the King made use of the right of confiscation; on this He does so again. He boldly steps up to a man who is walking around somewhere with a pitcher on his shoulder, and arranges matters affecting the man's property quite as He pleases. God actively cooperated in the preparations for entry into Jerusalem, saw to it that the colt was at the exact spot Jesus had indicated. A God of providence shapes events in a similar way now. It is God who induces the

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man, particularly predestined for the purpose before time began, to leave home with the pitcher at exactly that moment, and to cause him to return at a similarly appointed hour. God makes him stop for a few seconds at the specific corner where he is arrested by Peter and John. God spreads the cloth over the table at which the Son of man will lie to partake of the Last Supper. One can never feel strongly the vital reality of the providence of God unless one observes it closely.

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- When Jesus demanded the colt He made His appearance as King. He comes to partake of Passover as Mediator of the New Testament. The two complement each other.
- An old tradition tells the house in which the Passover was celebrated was the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark. A few reasons that make it likely:
- The man asked to reserve the room was of faithful friends. Mark appeared in the first Christian church and comes to the fore.

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- If his mother did so at this time, it is not the first time she lent her house to disciples (Acts 12).
- Mark was an intimate friend of Peter, who was one of the two Jesus sent out.
- The man carrying the pitcher may have been Mark or a servant of the house who knew Jesus and understood the need.
- If the Mediator, the Head of His church, celebrated Passover in Mary's house it was preserved as holy and is reason why Mary did

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not sell her home after Pentecost, when others sold all their goods to benefit persecuted believers. It would have been a delight to a congregation to meet in the place where Jesus had eaten Passover for the last time and Lord's Supper the first time.

- If it is the house of Mary referenced <sup>31</sup> when they had prayed, the place was shaken wherein they were gathered together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4: 31 then the

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place where Christ ate the last Passover is pointed out by God Himself as remnant of the Old Covenant Passover and New Testament communion.

- Mary, mother of Mark was Aunt to Joses Barnabas, a Levite born in Cyprus. If Mark was also a Levite, then a son of Levi, the ancient order of priests, set the table for the last Passover, which by the favor of God was celebrated under the law.

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- If a Levite prepared the Passover table and fulfilled his priestly duty by service to Jesus, the tenth given to Levi would be given to Jesus. Samson put forth a riddle <sup>14</sup> Out of the eater came forth food, And out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days declare the riddle. Judges 14: 14 ASV The eater is Levi who exacts a tenth from the people. Levi himself gives his house and a tenth of the income, to the better Priest, who will forever dismiss him from his service by making the

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Levitical sacrifice more than needed. Is it not consoling to Jesus to know God and Levi are there with Him?

- Never remove a veil thrown around facts by the Holy Spirit, even if it is old tradition. A teacher must check for truth, less he present as actual fact what he wish could be true. It has pleased the Holy Spirit to conceal the name and genealogy of the master and mistress of the house in which the Last Passover was kept.

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- The important matter is this, Christ the bearer and fulfiller of the law celebrates the Passover in accordance with the demands of the law. Because He wants to institute the Lord's Supper, symbol of the New Testament, He must follow the way of the Old Testament obediently to the very end. The birth room of the Lord's Supper must be kept pure.
- We have heard it said the Lamb of the Passover had to be perfect, unblemished, young and wholesome. Such is Jesus Christ as

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He goes to be slain. He satisfies the law perfectly, and pays its penalty. Our Passover of the New Testament is perfect; there is no sin in Him. He is undefiled, for He kept the law. He is young and strong. We must put our fingers in His blood, and sprinkle it, not over the doors of our houses, but over our hearts. Then we must present ourselves, not to the Priest, for He has seen us already, but to the God of the Priest, to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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- Two lines meet in the room where Jesus is seated. The switch is thrown. Fleshly Israel will no longer go up to celebrate the Passover according to the old law. Instead, spiritual Israel will rise from the table presently and celebrate the Lord's Supper. On this occasion mysteries of the altar, be it in Levi's house or else where, are surely according to the order of Melchizdek.  
<sup>11</sup> Now if there was perfection through the Levitical priesthood (for under it hath the people received the law), what further need was there

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that another priest should arise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be reckoned after the order of Aaron? <sup>15</sup> And what we say is yet more abundantly evident, if after the likeness of Melchizedek there ariseth another priest, <sup>16</sup> who hath been made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life: <sup>17</sup> for it is witnessed of him, Thou art a priest for ever After the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7: 11 & 15-17 ASV

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*You are invited to join us!*

*We continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*

*We study doctrine and pray every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.*