

Introduction

- Lesson text: [Mt. 26:26-29](#)
- 1. Thanksgiving is essential in all five spiritual sacrifices when we worship God.
 - a. Those five spiritual sacrifices are teaching/preaching, singing, giving, the Lord's Supper, and prayers ([Ac. 2:42](#)).
- 2. We express our thanksgiving to God and for others verbally through prayer.
- 3. We also express our thanksgiving to God through our giving.

I. A Dark Night

1. Jesus knew that He would be betrayed before He was betrayed ([Mt. 26:1-2](#)).
 - a. This is evidence that He is God (cf. [Jn. 16:30](#)).
2. A plot by the chief priests, scribes, and elders was hatched ([Mt. 26:3-5](#)).
 - a. Satan works in subtility ([Gen. 3:1](#); [Rev. 20:2](#)).
3. Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, was the betrayer ([Mt. 26:14-16](#)).
 - a. 30 pieces of silver was the price of a manservant ([Ex. 21:32](#)).
4. The feast of unleavened bread had begun ([Mt. 26:17-20](#)).
 - a. This is significant as this alerts us to the fact that the elements of the Lord's Supper had no yeast or leaven in them.
 - b. We know this because during the feast of unleavened bread leaven was prohibited to be in Israelite houses and not to be eaten under penalty of being cut off from the congregation ([Ex. 12:17-20](#)).
5. Jesus identified Judas Iscariot as the betrayer during this feast ([Mt. 26:21-25](#)).
 - a. It was night when Judas Iscariot left to betray Jesus ([Mt. 26:20](#); [Jn. 13:30](#)).

II. A Shining Memorial

1. Following Judas Iscariot's departure, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper ([Mt. 26:26-29](#)).
 - a. Observe that Jesus blessed or gave thanks for both the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine.
 - b. There is much more to His giving of thanks than for the physical food (cf. [1 Tim. 4:1-5](#)).

2. The unleavened bread represents the body of Jesus Christ ([Mt. 26:26](#)).
 - a. Leaven is a corrupting agent ([1 Cor. 5:1-8](#); [Gal. 5:7-9](#)).
 - b. Unleavened then would indicate no corruption of which Christ’s body never saw corruption ([Ac. 2:31-32](#); cf. [Ps. 16:10](#)).
3. The fruit of the vine represents the blood of Jesus Christ ([Mt. 26:27-29](#)).
 - a. The generic word often translated as “wine” (*oinos* G3631) is not used in the Lord’s Supper contexts.
 - b. Instead, two specific Greek words (with their definite articles) are used translated as “fruit of the vine” (*ho* G3588 *genema* G1081 *ho* G3588 *ampelos* G288).
 - c. It is not just any vine either it is the grapevine ([Rev. 14:18](#)).
 - d. Unfermented grape juice was used as fermentation requires leaven (yeast).

III. “Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift”

1. The Father loved us enough to give us His Son for the sins of the world ([Jn. 3:16-17](#); [1 Jn. 2:1-2](#)).
2. Jesus Christ loved us enough to lay down His life freely ([Jn. 10:17-18](#), [15:13-14](#)).
3. The Holy Spirit loved us enough to reveal this truth to us through the inspired Word so that we can thank God ([2 Pt. 1:16-21](#)).
 - a. “Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift” ([2 Cor. 9:15](#))!
4. Every first day of the week (cf. [Ac. 20:7](#)) as Christians partake of the Lord’s Supper, let us be mindful of what it took to procure our salvation.

Conclusion

1. The betrayal of Jesus was a dark night but a shining memorial was instituted in the Lord’s Supper.
2. We are truly blessed to be partakers of the Lord’s table ([1 Cor. 10:21](#)) and His supper ([1 Cor. 11:20](#)).
3. Let us participate in this spiritual sacrifice with a heart of thanksgiving!