

Worth Celebrating // Part 4

Introduction:
This week Chance continues a new series called '**Worth Celebrating**' with the message for **Week 4.** There are areas of our lives worth celebrating even in the midst of tough circumstances. The joy that we find is not of ourselves or in our circumstances, but in Jesus and the grace He has given us.

Communion is often something that can feel heavy or gloomy because it was the day before Jesus died. But when you really think about it, Jesus took that time to not live in the "gloomy" mindset, but CELEBRATED a meal that focuses on God's faithfulness to us. Then, He took it a step further as He shared God's plan from the very beginning to make us right with HIM.

Questions:

1. What is the meaning of Passover, and why is that important to these events in Mark 14? Why was it significant that this day was the time when the Passover lamb was sacrificed during the Festival of Unleavened Bread? **Mark 14:12-13**

2. Is it significant that the large room was already setup and ready for the Passover meal for Jesus and His disciples? How does this demonstrate the intentionality of Jesus and His strategic preparation for this critical event? **Mark 14:14-15**

3. What was the symbolism of the different elements of the Passover meal and what they represent? Can you imagine Jesus and how comfortable and relaxed He was during this meal, even though He faced humiliation and death only a few hours from then? Given the normal conversations that happened during the

Passover meal, is Jesus' accusation surprising? **Mark 14:16-18; Deuteronomy 26:5-9; Exodus 12:28-34 & 39; Exodus 6:6-7**

4. How do you think each of the twelve disciples reacted to the accusation from Jesus that one of them would betray Him? Can you picture each of them asking "Am I the one?" **Mark14:19**

5. Would the disciples have expected for Jesus to say this was part of the plan for Him to die? How is the next statement from Jesus a direct warning to Judas of the consequences of his betrayal? Why was it important that Jesus was offering grace to those who would very soon betray Him? **Mark 14:20-21**

6. Given the conversation they just had, is it surprising that Jesus then continues on with the Passover meal celebration? How do you think His disciples reacted to Jesus' statement about the broken bread being His body? How does this demonstrate Jesus' faith in the plan from His Father? **Mark 14:22**

7. How does taking the cup of salvation (one of the 4 cups of wine used in the Passover meal) confirm the new covenant between God and His people? Would you have left this meal feeling like singing? Can you give thanks to God even in the midst of difficult circumstances? **Mark 14:23-26**

Key takeaway*: We need to make remembering God's faithfulness a regular celebration. Choose to worship Jesus even when the road ahead is difficult. We are not obligated to worship, but when you see what Jesus has done in your life you get to celebrate.*

Summary:

- Disciples preparing the Passover meal by Jesus' instructions
- Jesus made sure everything was taken care of
- The Passover was symbolic & Jesus drops an accusation
- The disciples all wonder if the betrayer will be them
- Jesus speaks directly to Judas about the consequences
- Jesus treats this meal as a celebration & remembrance

- Jesus confirms the covenant between God and His people, they end the meal with singing & praising God