



We began by considering events that change everything. Time will tell what the longer term impact of the coronavirus will be. Certainly Brexit, 9:11, the technological revolution and personal events in all of our lives have transformed the way we live.

We have a moment something like this in Luke 22:1-38. A moment, indeed a meal, which changed everything.

1. A meal that revealed a new sacrifice and covenant (v14-23)

Luke is keen for us to see that this meal occurred at Passover, when the Jews traditionally celebrated God's rescue of the Israelites from Egypt. But in a meal that was all about looking back, Jesus started talking about the future. The bread that had for generations symbolised the unleavened bread of the exodus, was now to remind Jesus' followers of something new – of his body, about to be broken on the cross for them. No more Passover celebrations would be necessary. Jesus' body would be the once-and-for-all sacrifice for their sin.

And this sacrifice brought in the new covenant promised through Jeremiah – a new way for God to relate to this people and the forgiveness for sins.

And this offer – this bread – was for them. Jesus' offering was powerful, personal and nourishing. And it is each of these things for us too.

2. A meal that reveals a whole new way of living (v24-38)

The dispute Jesus' disciples immediately fell into suggested that they had not yet grasped Jesus' offer and the transformative impact it has to have upon them.

We see 3 lessons over the rest of this passage, as Jesus seeks to recast his disciples' thinking.

1. He recasts how they are to view each other (v25-30). No longer are they to build their own little castles here on earth. Jesus has given them a kingdom! They are free to serve and put other people first.

2. He recasts how they are to view themselves (v31-34). Peter (a representative of us all) is not as godly or able to resist temptation as he might like to think. But Jesus has prayed for him, and we know from Romans 8 that he prays for us!

3. He recasts how they are to view the world (v35-38). They are to be prepared for spiritual battle. But they will face no opposition Jesus has not already faced, just as the Scriptures promised, so they need not fear.

Here are a few questions you could use to get your group started...

1. In what ways did Jesus change the traditional Passover meal? How significant would you say these changes were? What is the significance of Jesus saying that he has brought the new covenant in? (You might want to look up Jer 31v31-34).

2. How does it help us to know that Jesus' blood is powerful – that it is the final sacrifice for all our sin?

3. Why does Jesus place such an emphasis on this offering being personal – from him personally to his followers. How can that encourage and help us this week?

4. What experiences have you had of Jesus nourishing you – through Bible study and prayer, the Lord's Supper and baptism, worship and fellowship?

5. How can we avoid the temptation to put ourselves first and/or retreat into ourselves, especially in light of coronavirus? What about in other areas of life? How as a church can we model serving one another and the wider community in difficult times that may be ahead? What practical suggestions do we have?

6. Where might we be tempted to think we are more godly/more resistant to temptation than we are? In light of the coronavirus? In other areas of life? What encouragement can we take from Romans 8v26-27, 34?

7. How can we prepare ourselves for spiritual conflict? What challenges and opportunities might we face in light of the coronavirus? How about other areas of life? How does it help us to know that we are opposed as Jesus was opposed?