



## **PART ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Passover cup is one of the central symbols of the Easter holiday. When Jesus and His disciples observed the Passover, drinking a cup during the meal was an official part of the observance. An ancient rabbinic source, the Mishnah, instructs those celebrating to drink from the cup four times during the Passover meal. The tradition remains to this day. What is the significance of the cup Jesus uses during His Passover observance? In fact, there is not one cup but four – each time the cup is filled, it has a different name which links to a unique promise.

The first cup is the promise of rescue. When drinking the first cup, the Israelites will recite these words spoken by God, “I will bring you out from Egypt.” This reminds them of God’s promise that He is the One who rescues.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Talk about your memories of Easter as a child. What meaning was attached to Jesus’ death for you then?
2. Read Exodus 5 - Exodus 6:6. Moses, after much resistance, obeyed and went to see Pharaoh to ask for the freedom of the Israelites. Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go and increased their workload. The Israelites got angry and blamed Moses. But God still acted to deliver His people. What does the Bible tell us about why God wants to deliver His people (read Exo 3)? What does the text tell us about Moses, God’s ‘perfect’ human instrument to deliver? How about Pharaoh? Was his response surprising? Why or why not?
3. Read Luke 22:14-20. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.
  - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
  - ii. Read the passage aloud
  - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
    - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
    - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?

- What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
- iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
- Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
  - What is the main point or points?
  - What surprises are there?
  - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
- v. Some leading questions of the text:
- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
  - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
  - What does this teach us about God?
  - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
- vi. Some application questions of the passage:
- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
  - Is there some attitude I need to change?
  - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?
4. Jesus is God who comes to deliver His people, not just from human oppressors, but the powers that enslave them (Col 2:13-15). Jesus is also the true and better Moses (Heb 3:1-5), a mediator that God is completely pleased with, and who successfully and finally delivers His people from oppression. Do you see Jesus as your ultimate rescuer or do you look to other things?

## **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Good Friday reminds us that God came to rescue us. It is a promise, an offer, a guarantee. Are you in need of rescue from sin? This Good Friday, you can put your confidence in the finished work of the cross.

But if you are already rescued, have you enlisted in God's search and rescue team? He is still looking and calling all people. He has placed you in the marketplace, educational, military and political situations for a purpose. That purpose is to participate in His rescue mission for the world. Would you participate?

## **CHANGE YOUR MINDSET**

*"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.' ~ Exo 6:6*