



PART THREE 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 the 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 and second cups remind us that God has come to rescue and renew us. The third cup is the “Cup of Redemption” in which God promised to redeem His people. Jesus came to bring us out of the place of slavery by making full payment for our sins. This is the cup of the new covenant and fulfilment for us to be free and to become sons and daughters of God again.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the Unleavened Bread in the Lord’s Supper represent and signify?
2. Redemption presupposes a condition of poverty, debt and/or slavery from which one can only find deliverance by the payment of a price. The Old Testament is full of stories of redemption as a foreshadow to the redemptive work of Christ. One example is the story of Hosea and his unfaithful wife, Gomer in Hosea 1-3. The story parallels God’s unfailing redemptive love to the nation of Israel who strayed away from His covenant.

Identify why redemption is necessary.

3. In Greek, there are four words that describe redemption:

Agorazo – the marketplace of slaves

Exagorazo – bring out from the marketplace of slaves

Lutrosis – the full payment of a slave

Apolutrosis – to return to its original state

These four words explain the full redemptive work of Christ. Jesus came down into our place of slavery to sin, and delivered us by paying the ransom with His blood. Not only that, our identities shifted from slaves to sons and heirs.

Having gained an understanding of the biblical meaning of redemption, in what sense have you been "redeemed" from slavery? What do you think your life up to now would have been like, if you hadn't been redeemed? What do you think your future be like without redemption, do you think?

4. Read Galatians 4:1-7. 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 keywords? 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 me to change the way I live?

5. Identify the ways in which these truths about redemption have the power to transform your relationship with God.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Jesus paid the full price for our freedom. Will we give Him our full devotion, absolute obedience and complete worship? Jesus alone is worthy of all of our worship because He is our Redeemer.

- **Receive** His gift of redemption.
- **Return** from our idolatry and be set free by the truth. We do not have to go back to the place of slavery because God has set us free.
- **Respond** to God's wonderful promise by worshipping Him our Redeemer and surrendering our lives to Him.

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." ~ Galatians 4:7 (ESV)