

THE BIG IDEA: The Lamb has always been the plan.

The Take-Off

This morning we'll be talking through the first half of Luke 22. As a reminder, we're wrapping up our True Story series in the Gospel of Luke with a mini-series called "The Culmination" that will walk us through the last 4 chapters of the book but also roughly the last 4 days of Jesus' life before the cross.

It will lead us right up to Easter, and it's a good way to prepare our hearts for the significance of the holiday.

It's so much more than eggs, new clothes, and church plays.

Sometimes it's good to remember what the plan always was, and that's what this morning is all about: God's plan and how we respond to it.

Just to make sure you're tracking with me, let's break this message into those 2 parts: God's plan and our response

1. God's plan

- a. God's plan is found in the very first verse: the Passover
- b. If you're reading through the Bible with us this year, you probably recognized that word
- c. For the rest of us, let's slip into Passover 101 for a sec
- d. The Passover is from Exodus 12 and it was the night that the angel of destruction swept through Egypt and took the life of all first born sons UNLESS there was blood on the doorposts.
- e. If the blood was there, destruction "passed over" that house and the first born was spared
- f. It couldn't be just any blood, either.
- g. **Exodus 12:5** / it had to come from a lamb with no defects
- h. **Exodus 12:12-13, 23** / if blood from a perfect lamb was applied to the doorposts, the inhabitants were protected from death and destruction
- i. So the Passover was part of God's plan, but His plan wasn't to sacrifice lambs forever, and if you're hearing me, then you probably already guessed where this is heading: JESUS!
 - **John 1:29** / the Lamb of God
 - **1 Peter 1:19** / without defect
 - **Hebrews 4:15** / perfect
 - **Revelation 5:6-10** / the Lamb who was slain
 - **Hebrews 9:11-14** / the blood covers us and gives us life
 - **Romans 8:1-4** / the death of Jesus set us free from slavery to sin
- j. Jesus is the ultimate Passover lamb, and the Lamb has always been the plan!
- k. **Revelation 13:8** tells us that Jesus' sacrifice was never a reaction to sin; it was always a redemptive plan for sinners.
- l. There's no question that **the Lamb has always been the plan.**
- m. The only question that remains is this one: how will we respond to God's plan?
- n. I believe we find 5 responses in the first half of Luke 22. Let's take a look at them now.

2. Our response

- a. Here's why it's important to look at our response: often, this is what we forget
- b. We come to church, connect a few dots between an OT story about a death angel and the NT story about Jesus and then leave feeling smarter.
- c. But that's not the goal. The goal isn't information; it's transformation.
- d. The characters in the story were all faced with the same information, but they had very different responses (and sometimes, the same person had more than one!).
- e. Here they are, in the order that we read them. When it comes to God's plan for restoring sinners:
 - We can WORK AGAINST it like Judas and the leaders in vv. 1-6
 - We can PREPARE FOR it like Peter and John in vv. 7-13
 - We can RECEIVE it like the disciples in vv. 14-23
 - We can FIGHT ABOUT it like the disciples in vv. 24-30
 - We can DENY OUR NEED OF it like Peter in vv. 31-38
- f. When you stop to think about it, the determining factor in our response is how much we do (or don't) trust the one who has the plan.

- g. It's hard to trust when we think that we're the main character in the story, isn't it?
- h. If we're the main character - and not Jesus - then the story has to make sense to us in order for us to be a part of it.
- i. But we're not the main character - Jesus is!

The Landing

The wonderful thing about Jesus is that He is big enough and gracious enough to allow us to respond in multiple ways
In fact, we see in Peter 4 of the 5 responses IN THE SAME DAY!!

If that doesn't reveal our need of Jesus and His work on the cross, I don't know what does.

We know the plan - now I'm asking you to respond to it.

Let's pray.