

I. Introduction

- A. Welcome to Pathway. I am so glad you're here today, because we are on the ground floor of our new Fall Series. This will take us all the way to Christmas.
- B. Let's get right into the Word:
 - 1. *"Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."* (Exodus 12:13)
 - 2. *"These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover."* (Leviticus 23:4-5)

II. Egypt

- A. Travel back to ancient Egypt in its glory days. The empire covers the known world and the pyramids define the horizons.
- B. On this particular night a darkness has settled across the land, heavy and deep.
- C. Every Israelite home is silent, and in that silence, a terrifying promise hangs in the air: before the sun rises, Death itself will walk the streets of Egypt, and in every house, the firstborn son will die.
- D. Imagine you are a father in one of those homes.
- E. Your firstborn son, six years old, plays with his big sister across your tiny home. And you have been given the strangest, most unnerving instructions.
 - 1. You were told to take a perfect lamb, a lamb without spot or blemish, and you were told to sacrifice it.
 - 2. You were told to collect its blood in a bowl.
 - 3. Then, with a branch of the hyssop plant for a brush, you were told to paint the blood over your doorposts—across the top, and down both sides.
 - a) Vertical line of blood. A horizontal line of blood. Not unlike the Cross to which Jesus will be nailed a millennium and a half later.
- F. Now, you are inside. The door is shut. That sacrificial lamb has been roasted over the fire, and your family is eating it.
- G. But this is an unusual meeting. In this meal, you are all standing. Your sandals are on your feet, and your walking stick is in your hand. You are dressed to leave, even though you have nowhere to go. You are eating in haste, because at any moment, everything could change. In that moment, you have no idea how gigantically epic that change will be.

III. Series

- A. We are winding way back to the third book in the Bible. The strange and wonderful book called Leviticus. This is one of the five books of Moses, collectively called in the Law.
- B. Leviticus especially is the book of the religious laws of God's people. The offerings. The sacrifices. The priesthood. The civil regulations. And, the thing we are most interested in: the Festivals.
- C. Leviticus chapter 23 outlines 7+1 annual festivals across the calendar of the Jews:
- D. **The Festivals**
 - 1. **Passover (Leviticus 23:4-5)**
 - 2. **Unleavened Bread (23:6-8)**
 - 3. **Firstfruits (23:9-14)**
 - 4. **Pentecost (23:15-21)**
 - 5. **Trumpets (23:23-25)**
 - 6. **Atonement (23:26-32)**
 - 7. **Tabernacles (23:33-44)**
- E. Each festival is detailed and explained. And together they add up to a cycle of reminders that God's people have special privileges before him.
- F. This is the Grace Calendar!
 - 1. God's people have rights. God's people have blessings. God's people have powers, and privileges and an inheritance that nobody else has.
 - 2. And if you want one word to add it all up, that word is: **BIRTHRIGHT - One Festival After Another**
 - a) This is my title for the series.
 - 3. Our focus for today is **PASSOVER - Your Glorious STATUS**
- G. And because the festivals cover the entire calendar, the idea is that life with God is one festival after another. I'm not saying it's always a party, because it isn't. Life is very hard. It's brutal.
- H. But even so, there's always a fresh way to look at the good news of God's grace just around the corner.
- I. Together, the festivals make us ask a very big question. A life-changing question if you think about it.
 - 1. **What miracles would happen if you really believed you are who God says you are and you really embraced what God says you have?**
- J. We are going to look at each festival one by one. Today, we start with number one on the list. Which is: **The Feast of Passover**

IV. The Feast of Passover

- A. The Bible describes 8 key elements for Passover.
 - 1. **LAMB: Each household selected a lamb. (Exodus 12:3-5)**
 - a) Each Israelite household was to choose a lamb on the tenth day of the month. If a family was too small, they could share with a nearby household. The lamb had to be a male, one year old, and without blemish.
 - 2. **SACRIFICE: The lamb was kept until the fourteenth day, when it was sacrificed. (Exodus 12:6; Leviticus 23:5)**
 - a) The family kept the lamb until the fourteenth day of the month. Then the whole assembly of Israel was to sacrifice the lamb at twilight.

3. **BLOOD: The blood was placed on the doorframe. (Exodus 12:7, 22)**

- a) They were to take some of the lamb's blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel, the top beam of the doorway, of the house where they ate the meal.

4. **MEAL: The lamb was roasted and eaten. (Exodus 12:8-9)**

- a) They were to eat the lamb that night, roasted with fire. The meal also included unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were not to eat it raw or boiled.

5. **NO LEFTOVERS: Nothing was saved for later. (Exodus 12:10)**

- a) They were to eat the meal that night. Anything left until morning had to be burned with fire.

6. **HURRY: They ate dressed for departure. (Exodus 12:11)**

- a) They were to eat with their belt fastened, sandals on their feet, and staff in hand. They were to eat it in haste.

7. **JUDGEMENT DAY: The meal happened on a night of judgment. (Exodus 12:12-13, 23, 27)**

- a) That night, God would pass through Egypt in judgment. But when He saw the blood, He would pass over that house.

8. **MEMORIAL: The meal became a memorial. (Exodus 12:14, 24-27; Leviticus 23:4-5)**

- a) God commanded Israel to remember this day and keep it as a feast throughout their generations.

V. Slaves Set Free

- A. For four hundred years Israelites were slaves in Egypt. They made bricks for Egypt's cities, buried their daughters and sons in Egypt's mud, and called on the God of their fathers in a language Egypt never bothered to learn.
- B. Then God sent a deliverer. Moses said to Pharaoh — Let My people go — and Pharaoh said no.
1. So God sent the famous 10 plagues to Egypt... each plague designed to show that the gods of Egypt were no match for the God —the invisible Creator God—of the Jews.
 2. This night of passover was plague number 10 out of ten. It didn't have to happen. It should not have come to this. But the Pharaoh of Egypt hardened his heart toward the Lord.
- C. So finally the night of the Passover has arrived...
- D. That night, God in his Justice—God in his role as Judge—passed through Egypt.
- E. The Bible says that around midnight, a cry went up from every house in the land — from Pharaoh's palace to the prison to the livestock in the fields.
- F. The firstborn of Egypt died. But every house marked with the blood was passed over.
- G. Before morning, Pharaoh summoned Moses and told him to go — take the people and leave.
- H. Four hundred years of slavery ended in a single night. They went out not as escaped slaves but as a redeemed people, bought with blood.
- I. **That is what REDEMPTION means — not an improvement of your circumstances, but a change of your identity. Slaves went to bed that night. A free people woke up.**
- J. Death was literally transformed to life by the blood of the Lamb.
- K. And to keep them from forgetting it, God instituted this Passover meal as a permanent reminder of their brand new status as the redeemed people of God.

VI. Redemption

- A. Fifteen hundred years later, when Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples, that was the Passover meal.
1. When Jesus broke bread and said, this is my body which is broken for you, that was literally at a Passover meal.
 2. When he took wine and said, "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood," that was the Passover meal.
- B. Jesus was saying that everything the Passover symbolized, Jesus Christ actualized.
- C. The Bible says:
1. *"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."* (1 Corinthians 5:7b)
- D. Which brings up this:
1. *"So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."* (Colossians 2:16-17)
- E. This is the reason why we don't do Passover meals, and all the festivals, today. It's the reason why we don't do sacrifices. Why we don't have priests or priestly vestments. It's the reason why we don't eat kosher. It's the reason we can eat bbq ribs and bacon.
- F. It is because all of these regulations and rituals were shadows of Christ, and Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be the point. And since we have the substance in Christ, the shadow rituals and regulations have been declared "obsolete" (Hebrews 8:13).
- G. He is the main thing.
1. The festivals are living object lessons to proclaim Jesus Christ in the centuries before he came.
 2. Today, the festivals — and all the other rituals of the law — are object lessons to give us a fuller, deeper, richer understanding of Jesus Christ in the centuries since he came.
- H. Jesus actually said so to two men on a long walk to a city called Emmaus:
1. *"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."* (Luke 24:27)
 2. That is exactly the Bible study we're doing right now!

VII. PART 5 - THE SUBSTANCE IS CHRIST - AND YOU ARE IN HIM

- A. Paul just said the festivals were a shadow.
- B. A shadow is not a solid thing. A shadow is just the shape of a reality that hasn't arrived yet. The larger the object, the longer the shadow it casts.
- C. And fifteen hundred years before Jesus ever drew His first breath in a manger, he cast a shadow backwards through time. It fell heavy and deep across the dusty streets of Egypt. It painted itself in blood across those wooden doorposts.

1. That lamb? It was never ultimately about a lamb.
2. That blood? It was never ultimately about blood.
3. Egypt was the dress rehearsal. An old rugged cross on a hill called Calvary... THAT was the main event.
- D. On that night in Egypt, a nation walked out of a country.
 1. But at the Cross of Jesus Christ, a soul walks out of condemnation!
- E. The Apostle Paul doesn't say Christ is like the Passover. He says: "For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." He IS the Passover.
- F. And here is the passage that cracks this whole series open.
 1. *"Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."* (Colossians 1:12)
- G. Read that first line slowly.
 1. The Father has qualified us.
- H. In our world, you have to qualify yourself.
 1. You want the job? You have to build the resume.
 2. You want the loan? You have to qualify with your finances.
 3. You want the championship? You have to qualify on the field of play.
 4. You want to be forgiven? You want God to love you? You want heaven? The logic of earth says you have to qualify yourself.
- I. But when it comes to your standing before God?
 1. You DON'T qualify yourself.
 2. The Father has qualified you.
 - a) "Has qualified" is past tense verb (aorist participle), so it's done.
 - b) It is an active voice, so it's the Father who does it.
 - c) It has a direct object pointing to "us," meaning believers in Jesus, so we receive the action of the verb, we don't perform it.
 3. Every syllable here is good news on top of good news for anybody who has ever had enough moral self-awareness to question their worthiness before Almighty God.
- J. I'm here to tell you today that if you think low thoughts of yourself, take heart, because the Father qualified you.
 1. And if you think high thoughts of yourself, have some humility, because it's the Father who qualified you.
- K. And what exactly did He qualify you for?
 1. Paul says: "to be partakers of the INHERITANCE."
- L. Christian, there's your Birthright!
 1. Inheritance is the word the Bible uses to gather together in one word everything that belongs to you now that you are a Christian. Saved. Born again. However you want to say it.
 - a) And if you are listening today and you are not sure that the blood of Christ covers you, the invitation is not, "Qualify yourself and then come." The invitation is, "Come to Christ, and He will qualify you for the inheritance."
 2. The simplest way to say it is to say this:
 - a) **INHERITANCE: Everything that belongs to Jesus Christ now belongs to you. You are an HEIR of God and a JOINT-HEIR with Christ (Colossians 1:12, Romans 8:17).**
- M. The Father qualified you to inherit the treasures of heaven, because you are in Christ, and all the wealth of infinity and beyond have been poured into his lap.
 1. You have no idea how rich you are.
 2. And exactly HOW did you get qualified for all this?
- N. Look at the next 2 verses:
 1. *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."* (Colossians 1:13-14)
- O. Does that sound familiar? That is the Passover! God literally transplanted you out of the kingdom of slavery and dropped you right into the Kingdom of His Son.
- P. How? Redemption through his blood. There it is. The ultimate Passover.
- Q. The blood of Christ, painted across the doorposts of your soul. Ever since that day...
 1. You're not a slave, you've been set free. That's what redemption is.
 2. You're not an addict, when you got saved you got your dominion back. In Christ, sin's dominion has been broken. You may still have a fight ahead of you, but you are not fighting as a slave trying to get free. You are fighting as a redeemed son or daughter who has already been brought out of Egypt.
 3. You're not an orphan, a victim, a loser. You're not rejected or condemned.
 4. You're not unloved, unwanted, unnoticed, unimportant, unworthy, undeserving, unredeemable, unfixable, unforgivable, unvalued, unprotected, unsafe, unanchored, unseen, unheard, unblessed, unfinished, unfulfilled.
 - a) You're not un-anything!
 5. You are a child of the Living God, and you have a purpose, a provision, a privilege, a power, and a potential that the world can't begin to imagine because you have a BIRTHRIGHT for which you are fully qualified, because of the blood of the Lamb painted on the doorposts of your soul.
 - a) Don't you just want to thank God that Christ, your Passover, is sacrificed for you?

VIII. The Specs

- A. You are an heir of God, and therefore you have an exalted status.

- B. It's who you are. It's your identity. Let me break it down into nine truths about you that never change. No matter how you feel on any given day.
 - 1. 1. You are FORGIVEN (Colossians 2:13). Every single one of your sins—past, present, and the ones you haven't even committed yet—have been washed away forever. You are no longer defined by your worst moments, because of Christ. The ledger is clean.
 - 2. 2. You are JUSTIFIED (Romans 3:22). Declared righteous in the court of heaven. You have nothing left to prove to anybody. You don't have to perform to get God's attention, because His gavel has already fallen in your favor. (Romans 3:22)
 - 3. 3. You are FREE FROM CONDEMNATION (Romans 8:1). There is zero condemnation waiting for you. When you slip, when you fail, when you have a bad day, God does not throw you out. There is no wrath left for you, because Jesus drank the cup dry.
 - 4. 4. You are ACCEPTED (Ephesians 1:6). You are as acceptable to the Father as Jesus Himself is. Let that sink in. Even on the days when the world rejects you, when your family doesn't understand you, or when you can't even stand yourself—God always welcomes you home.
 - 5. 5. God is SATISFIED with you (1 John 2:2, Zephaniah 3:17). Because the sacrifice of Jesus permanently satisfied His justice. God does not roll His eyes when you walk into the room. He does not frown when He thinks of you. He looks at you and He smiles.
 - 6. 6. You have PEACE WITH GOD (Romans 5:1). The war is over. You are not at war with Him, and He is not at war with you. You don't have to walk on eggshells around Almighty God.
 - 7. 7. You are RECONCILED (2 Corinthians 5:20). Every barrier between you and God has been permanently demolished. The distance is gone. You have direct, 24/7, high-speed access to the throne of grace.
 - 8. 8. You are SECURE FOREVER (John 10:28). You are locked into the love of God. You didn't save yourself, so you can't unsave yourself. Your eternity is not held together by your grip on Him; it is held together by His grip on you.
 - 9. 9. You are BOUGHT WITH A PRICE (1 Corinthians 6:20). You belong to Him. You are His treasured possession. And because you are His, He is committed to protecting, defending, and providing for you for the rest of your life.
- C. This is your identity. This is the real you.
 - 1. This is not a list of things you need to achieve this week. This is a list of things you need to believe this week because they are already true of who you really are.
- D. If you want to change your life, change your identity.
- E. **No amount of will-power or discipline can ever do what confessing and declaring your identity can do. Stop asking discipline to do identity's job.**
 - 1. Take this list and say it. Study it. Memorize it. Declare it. Pray over it. Profess it.

IX. Conclusion

- A. Every bit of it and so much more is your Birthright, so it belongs to you.
- B. But look back at that Passover meal in Egypt one last time. There is a final detail of the Passover we cannot leave behind.
- C. God didn't just tell them what to eat. He told them how to eat.
 - 1. *"Eat it with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste."* (Exodus 12:11)
- D. Put your shoes on and hurry up.
- E. That tells me, put some fire in your belly. **Your Christianity can use some urgency.**
- F. Don't plan on staying where you're at today. Don't plan on worrying about your salvation next month like you worry about it today. Move on. This isn't a leisurely meal.
 - 1. You've got an inheritance to discover.
 - 2. You've got an identity to unleash.
 - 3. You've got powers to activate.
 - 4. You've got privileges to take advantage of.
 - 5. You've got Egypt—the unwanted life you keep falling back into—to leave behind.
 - 6. And you've got a Promised Land to get to—and it's flowing with milk and honey.
 - a) It's the place where God receives maximum glory from you and where you experience maximum blessings from him...
 - b) Your Promised Land is the place where your identity intersects with your maximum transcendent purpose, and...
 - (1) **...the world's a better place**
 - (2) **...heaven's a more populated place,**
 - (3) **...and you're in the most abundant place you can possibly be.**
 - 7. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
 - 8. Your status could not be more exalted. Quit being okay with being okay. Leave Egypt behind.
- G. Put your shoes on and hurry up.
 - 1. **What miracles would happen if you really believed you are who God says you are and you really embraced what God says you have?**
 - 2. How about we find that out.

X. Prayer

- A. Father, our hearts overflow with gratitude today because we did not have to qualify ourselves. You qualified us. Thank You for the blood of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, painted over the doorposts of our souls. I pray that the truth of our exalted status would sink deep into every heart in this room this week. Let the weary remember they are forgiven. Let the anxious remember they are secure. Let the orphan remember they are adopted. Lord, stir up a holy urgency in us today. Shake us out of complacency. Break the chains of our Past Selves, and pull us out of the mud of Egypt. Give us the courage to step boldly into the identity and the inheritance you have given us. In the mighty, matchless name of Jesus, our Passover, we pray. Amen.