

What Did Jesus Say?

Very few churches ever seem to ask the question together as to what the Bible actually is. A theological position is assumed, but never questioned. We decided to examine some of those assumptions. How do you express that in a eucharistic prayer?

What did Jesus say
on that last evening with his friends?
And while we're at it
was it Passover evening or the night before Passover?

Mark and Matthew
basically agree about the bread
although Matthew adds a word
Is it 'take' or 'take, eat, this is my body?'

Jesus has already predicted that someone will betray him—in Matthew naming Judas
Except that in Luke, he hasn't.
In Luke, Jesus starts by sharing wine (not bread)—to predict his death.
I'll not drink wine again until the kingdom of God arrives

*Then he shares bread, using completely different words
'This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory.'*

Does it matter?
We weren't there.
We have no way of knowing.
This is the story of our *faith*.

Before he predicts his betrayal, Luke describes how Jesus shared wine again:
This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you.

But Mark has different words:
This is my blood,
God's new covenant,
Poured out for many people.

And Matthew adds another line:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
God's new covenant poured out for many people
for the forgiveness of sins.

Does it matter?
We weren't there.
We have no way of knowing.
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Finally, Matthew and Mark allow Jesus to predict his death with words—different words, mind—
about not drinking wine until the Kingdom of God

Of course, Luke has already used those words. So his finale is predicting the betrayal. Although he
doesn't speak of dipping bread in the cup. For him, the betrayer's hand is on the table.

And the evening ends in chaos

But not in Matthew and Mark, where they go, in orderly fashion, to the Mount of Olives.

Does it matter?

We weren't there.

We have no way of knowing.

This is the story of our *faith*.

So into the chaos strides the figure of Paul.

He claims authority.

I received my instructions from the Master himself and passed them on to you.

Except, of course, that he never actually met Jesus

I received my instructions from the Master himself and passed them on to you.

Sort yourselves out

End the chaos

I find that you bring your divisions to worship—you come together, and instead of eating the Lord's Supper, you bring in a lot of food from the outside and make pigs of yourselves. Some are left out, and go home hungry. Others have to be carried out, too drunk to walk. I can't believe it! Don't you have your own homes to eat and drink in? Why would you stoop to desecrating God's church? Why would you actually shame God's poor? I never would have believed you would stoop to this. And I'm not going to stand by and say nothing.

So do what I say

Let me go over with you again exactly what goes on in the Lord's Supper and why it is so centrally important. I received my instructions from the Master himself and passed them on to you. The Master, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread. Having given thanks, he broke it and said,

This is my body, broken for you.

Do this to remember me.

After supper, he did the same thing with the cup:

This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you.

Each time you drink this cup, remember me.

What you must solemnly realise is that every time you eat this bread and every time you drink this cup, you reenact in your words and actions the death of the Master. You will be drawn back to this meal again and again until the Master returns. You must never let familiarity breed contempt.

Does it matter?

We weren't there.

We have no way of knowing.

This is the story of our *faith*.

This is the story of our faith.

This is the story of our faith.

[Share bread and wine]

We eat of Christ's body

We drink of Christ's blood

We share bread together

We drink of one cup

Keep us united in love

