

Maundy Thursday

3-28-24

IN THE GARDEN

by C. Austin Miles (1912)

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known
None other has ever known

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

by George Bennard (1912)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame,
And I love that old cross where the Dearest
and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the
world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so
divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and
died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

Good News Church
Overview of a Traditional Jewish Passover Seder
3-28-24

Hebrew word meanings: Seder (order), Pesach (Passover),
Haggadah (Telling), Afikomen (it comes later)

1. The Story of Passover (Exodus 12)

- The head of household reads from Exodus 12 and then exclaims, *“This was our deliverance! This was our redemption!”*

2. Lighting of the Candles

- Symbolic of God’s presence and light

3. The Four Questions

- The youngest child asks four questions (summarized below), after the father asks this opening question, *“Why is this night so different from all the other nights?”* A: *“On this night, we celebrate the going forth of the children of Israel from slavery into freedom.”*
 1. Why do we eat unleavened bread?
 2. Why do we eat only bitter herbs?
 3. Why do we dip the herbs in salt water?
 4. Why do we eat only reclining?

4. First Cup: The Cup of Sanctification

- This cup is taken in remembrance of God’s setting apart Israel for God’s intended purposes that, *“I will be your God and you will be my people, and I will bless all the nations of the world through you.”*

5. First Washing of the Hands

- Traditionally, this is the time during Passover that the father in the home washes his hands to signify his role as the spiritual leader. In Jesus’ day, it was customary that the servant in the home would wash the hands of the father and of all who are present.

6. Dipping of the Parsley into Salt Water

- The parsley represents life. The salt water represents tears. Dipping the parsley into the salt water represents the hard life of suffering while enslaved in Egypt.

7. Eating the Bitter Herbs (Horseradish)

- Dipping the matzah into the horseradish is to remember that, as sweet as life is today, we remember the bitter life of the children of Israel while enslaved in Egypt

8. Eating the Bitter Herbs with Cheroseet (apple mixture)

- The apple mixture is symbolic of the mortar for the bricks the Israelites had to make while enslaved in Egypt. Dipping the matzah into the apple mixture is to remember that, even in the bitter times of life, our lives are kept sweet because of God’s redemption.

9. The Roasted Egg

- The roasted egg symbolizes the sacrifices that can no longer be made because the Temple has been destroyed.

10. The Lamb Shankbone

- The shankbone represents the lambs whose blood marked the houses of Israel.

11. Second Cup: The Cup of Plagues (Exodus 8-11)

- Everyone at the table dips their finger into the cup of wine ten times and recites each plague after each dipping.

12. The Unity and Breaking of the Middle Matzah

- The Unity napkin holds three pieces of matzah. The head of household breaks the middle piece of Matzah, wraps one half in a linen napkin, and hides it. After dinner, the children search for it, find it, and raise it from its hiding place. This buried and raised middle piece is called the Afikomen. Once the bread is broken, it is distributed such that everyone gets a piece of bread.

13. The Children Search for the Hidden Matzah (Afikomen)

- After supper, the children search for the hidden piece of matzah, wrapped in a linen napkin. Whoever finds it gets a prize. *NOTE: It's interesting to note that, in addition to the matzah bread being broken and hidden, it is also pierced and striped. See Isaiah 53. Additionally, when Jesus was buried, His body was wrapped in a linen cloth.*

14. Third Cup: The Cup of Redemption

- This cup represents God's promise to rescue His people from slavery and to redeem His people with His outstretched arm ("zeroah" – same word for shankbone)

15. Fourth Cup: The Cup of Praise

- With this cup, the people are praising God for redemption past and redemption future. Traditionally, the songs that are sung are the Hallel Psalms 113-118. It is very likely that, as Jesus and His disciples left the upper room to go to the Garden of Gethsemane, they were singing, *"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalms 118:22-24).

16. Fifth Cup: The Cup of Elijah

- Each year at Passover, a place setting and a cup of wine are reserved at the table for Elijah. The front door is opened inviting Elijah to come in, and to bring with him, peace and freedom, ushering in the time of the Messiah. See Malachi 3-4.

17. Concluding Song

- The song that is sung is titled, *"Next Year in Jerusalem!"*

Good News Church
Scripture Readings of Jesus' Last Supper
3-28-24

READER 1: Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus – Luke 22:1-6

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, 2 and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. 3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. 4 And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. 5 They were delighted and agreed to give him money. 6 He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

The Last Supper – Luke 22:7-18

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, *“Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”* 9 “Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked. 10 He replied, *“As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ 12 He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.”* 13 They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. 14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, *“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”*

Passover Feast – It is likely that Jesus and His disciples would have begun the feast with prayer and a reading of God’s instructions to the Israelites in preparing for Passover, as found in Exodus 12.

The Cup of Sanctification – This cup is taken in remembrance of God’s setting apart Israel for God’s intended purposes, accompanied by a prayer, *“Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.”*

17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, *“Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

The Washings – Traditionally, this is the time during Passover that the head of household washes his hands to signify his role as the spiritual leader. It was customary that the servant in the home would wash the hands of all who are present. It was at this point in the meal that it’s believed Jesus took this tradition of washings to an entirely different level.

READER 2: Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet – John 13:1-30

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, *"Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*

7 Jesus replied, *"You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*

8 *"No,"* said Peter, *"you shall never wash my feet."*

Jesus answered, *"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."*

9 *"Then, Lord,"* Simon Peter replied, *"not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"*

10 Jesus answered, *"Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."* 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. *"Do you understand what I have done for you?"* he asked them. 13 *"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."*

READER 3: Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.' (prophesied in Psalm 41:9) 19 "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, *"Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."* 22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, *"Ask him which one he means."* 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, *"Lord, who is it?"*

Eating the Bitter Herbs (Horseradish)

26 Jesus answered, *"It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish."* Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, *"What you are about to do, do quickly."* 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

The Unity and Breaking of the Middle Matzah

READER 4: Instituting the Lord's Supper - Matthew 26:26-30

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, *"Take and eat; this is my body."*

The Cup of Redemption – It is at this point that it's believed Jesus took the cup and changed the significance of the Passover Feast from that of being a lamb to Himself as THE Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, *"Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the new covenant (Luke 22:20), which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

- The New Covenant that Jesus was referencing is in Jeremiah 31:33, *"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

The disciples argue over who is the greatest In the Kingdom of God - Luke 22:24-30

READER 5: Jesus Gives A New Command (Mandate = Maundy) – John 13:31-35

31 When he (Judas) was gone, Jesus said, *"Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. 33 "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Jesus tells the disciples that they will all fall away from him tonight. – Matthew 26:31-32

Jesus Tells Peter That He Will Deny Him – John 13:36-38

36 Simon Peter asked him, *"Lord, where are you going?"*

Jesus replied, *"Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."*

37 Peter asked, *"Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."*

38 Then Jesus answered, *"Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"*

Jesus Comforts His Disciples – John 14:1-4

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

READER 6: Jesus the Way to the Father – John 14:5-14

5 Thomas said to him, *"Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

6 Jesus answered, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

8 Philip said, *“Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”* 9 Jesus answered: *“Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

READER 7: Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit – John 14:15-31

15 *“If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, *“But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”* 23 Jesus replied, *“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

28 *“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”*

READER 8: The Vine and the Branches – John 15:1-17

15 *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

9 *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.*

READER 9: The World Hates the Disciples – John 15:18-25

18 *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'*

READER 10: The Work of the Holy Spirit – John 15:26-27 and John 16:1-15

26 *"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. **John 16:1-15** 1 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. 12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."*

READER 11: The Disciples' Grief Will Turn to Joy – John 16:16-33

16 Jesus went on to say, *“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”* 17 At this, some of his disciples said to one another, *“What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’”* 18 They kept asking, *“What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”*

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, *“Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

25 *“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”*

29 Then Jesus’ disciples said, *“Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”* 31 *“Do you now believe?”* Jesus replied. 32 *“A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

Fourth Cup: The Cup of Praise

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. – Matthew 26:30

- Traditionally, they would have been singing the Hallel Psalms 113-118, which means that, as Jesus and His disciples were going out, they were likely singing, *“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Psalm 118:22-24*

Jesus prays that He would be glorified and that He would glorify the Father. He also prays for protection and unity for His disciples and for all Believers of all time. – John 17:1-26

Jesus and His disciples then go to Gethsemane where Jesus is arrested, Peter denies Him three times, the disciples scatter, and Jesus is unjustly sentenced to death by crucifixion. – John 18:1-40

BECAUSE HE LIVES

by Bill & Gloria Gaither (1974)

God sent His son, They called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died, to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, I know, I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives*

And then one day, I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the light of glory and I'll know that He lives

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, I know, I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives*