

# **Lenten Journey – Lord’s Prayer**

*But Deliver Us From Evil*

**Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2009**

**Rev. Paul Johns**

Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30

Our Maundy Thursday Service tonight began with something called Seder. Seder is a remembrance of Passover. Last night I was with my Jewish neighbors for the celebration of Passover. Jesus gathered with his disciples tonight to celebrate Passover. It places a lot of emphasis on Moses as the Great Deliverer which leads to the Lord’s Prayer – Deliver us from evil.

The approach I would like to use tonight is to look at some key elements of Passover and connect them to Jesus as the one who can deliver us from evil.

First of all Jesus is able to deliver because He is righteous. The Passover story says that the people offered a lamb that was without spot or blemish. For Jesus to be able to deliver us from our sin he had to be without blemish; he had to be sinless. He could not be dying for his own sin; he was dying to forgive ours. The Bible says that Jesus was like us in every respect except one. He was truly human. He could understand the human predicament and human temptations. But he was without sin.

Three times Pilate, the Roman governor, said, “This man has done nothing wrong.” Legally that should have meant the release of Jesus. But religiously he went through what he came here to accomplish as the innocent Lamb of God. He died to take our punishment for sin.

Jesus is able to deliver because he was righteous. Secondly, he is our Redeemer.

The word Redeemer, the namesake of our church, means to set free. Moses is considered the Great Deliverer, because he was the human instrument to set free the people of Israel from the bondage of Egypt.

The Bible, however, says that there is a bondage greater than the slavery of Egypt, and that is the slavery from sin. I have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. I want to be set free. Jesus paid the ransom price of his death. If we want him to set us free, he will because he is our Redeemer.

Jesus is able to deliver us because he is righteous. Secondly because he is our Redeemer. And thirdly because he gives us reason to remember.

In connection with Passover, Moses was the Great Law Giver. Remember the Law because this is God’s special guideline for a special life.

Jesus gives us a mandate. Maundy means mandate. Do this in remembrance of me. To help you remember, I take the very common elements of bread and wine and identify my presence with these – This is my Body; this is my Blood. As sure as we can be that this Bread and Wine have entered the body, that sure we can be that Christ is in us. Remember that. Do it in Remembrance. It gives Victory and Deliverance over evil. Amen.