

1 Corinthians 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

Analysis

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread—Paul pivots from rebuke to institution narrative. Παρέλαβον ἀπὸ τοῦ κυρίου (I received from the Lord)—technical language of apostolic tradition (cf. 15:3). Did Paul receive this directly via revelation or through apostolic testimony? Both: the tradition came through the apostles, but Paul's authority to transmit it came from Christ Himself.

The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed (ὁ κύριος Ἰησοῦς ἐν τῇ νυκτὶ ἣ παρεδίδετο)—paredideto (was betrayed/handed over) is imperfect tense: the action of betrayal was in process. This solemnizes the meal—instituted at Jesus's darkest hour, surrounded by treachery, abandonment, and impending crucifixion. Yet Jesus didn't cancel the meal or despair; He instituted a sacred ordinance pointing to His death as substitutionary atonement. The Corinthians' abuse of this meal, instituted in such gravity, is especially heinous.

Historical Context

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper during Passover (Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23). The Passover context is critical: lamb's blood saved Israel from judgment (Exodus 12). Jesus reinterprets Passover christologically—His body and blood are the true sacrifice that delivers from sin's judgment. Paul's account,

written circa AD 55 (about 25 years after Jesus's death), is the earliest written testimony to the Last Supper, predating the Synoptic Gospels. This shows how central the Eucharist was to early Christian worship.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the betrayal context of the Last Supper deepen its meaning—Christ instituted covenant even as He was being betrayed?
2. What does it mean that Paul 'received from the Lord' this tradition—how do apostolic authority and direct revelation interact?
3. How should remembering the solemnity of the Last Supper's institution affect how we approach the Table today?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγὼ	γὰρ	παρέλαβον	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	κύριος	ἣ	καὶ
I	For	have received	of	G3588	the Lord	that which	also
G1473	G1063	G3880	G575		G2962	G3739	G2532
παρεδίδото	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	ὁ	κύριος	Ἰησοῦς	ἐν	τῇ
I delivered	unto you	That	G3588	the Lord	Jesus	in	G3588
G3860	G5213	G3754		G2962	G2424	G1722	
νυκτὶ	ἣ	παρεδίδото	ἔλαβεν	ἄρτον			
the same night	that which	I delivered	took	bread			
G3571	G3739	G3860	G2983	G740			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:3 (Parallel theme): For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Thessalonians 4:2 (References Jesus): For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

Deuteronomy 4:5 (References Lord): Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 20:7 (Parallel theme): And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

Matthew 26:2 (Parallel theme): Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

Matthew 26:34 (References Jesus): Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Matthew 26:17 (References Jesus): Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

Galatians 1:1 (References Jesus): Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)