

Luke 22:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:

Analysis

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves. Jesus took the cup (δεξάμενος ποτήριον, dexamenos potērion), likely the first or second of the four Passover cups. He gave thanks (εὐχαριστήσας, eucharistēsas, aorist active participle), using the root eucharistia from which we derive 'Eucharist.' This thanksgiving (εὐχαριστέω, eucharisteō) blessed God for the fruit of the vine and redemption it symbolized.

Take this, and divide it among yourselves (λάβετε τοῦτο καὶ διαμερίσατε ἑαυτοῖς, labete touto kai diamerisate heautois) commands communal participation. The verb divide (διαμερίσατε, diamerisate, aorist active imperative) emphasizes sharing the single cup among all—corporate unity in covenant participation. Ironically, the same verb will describe soldiers dividing Christ's garments (Luke 23:34). The shared cup anticipates the 'cup of the new covenant in my blood' (v. 20), binding participants together as the blood of Exodus 24:8 bound Israel to God at Sinai.

Historical Context

The Passover Seder involved four cups of wine:

1. Cup of Sanctification (blessing)
2. Cup of Instruction (during haggadah recitation)
3. Cup of Redemption (after the meal, likely what became the communion cup),

4. Cup of Consummation (praise).

Wine was mixed with water (typically 3 parts wine to 1 part water) and passed ceremonially.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the act of 'dividing' the cup among themselves illustrate the unity and equality of believers in Christ?
2. What significance do you find in Jesus 'giving thanks' (eucharistēsas) even as He faced the cross hours away?
3. How should the communal nature of the Lord's Table ('divide it among yourselves') challenge individualistic approaches to faith?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	δεξάμενος	ποτήριον	εὐχαριστήσας	εἶπεν	Λάβετε
And	he took	the cup	and gave thanks	and said	Take
G2532	G1209	G4221	G2168	G2036	G2983
τοῦτο	καὶ	διαμερίσατε	ἑαυτοῖς·		
this	And	divide	it among yourselves		
G5124	G2532	G1266	G1438		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 116:13 (Parallel theme): I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.

Luke 22:19 (Parallel theme): And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

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