

## Maundy Thursday

### An upgrade

Question:

How many Church of Scotland Ministers does it take to change a light bulb?

Response:

Change? What's that?

In the eyes of many people, especially irregular attenders at church the one thing in life that must never change is the church! Yet these same people have probably changed many other things in their lives over the years. For example:

- twin tub washing machine for an automatic washing machine;
- their motor car for a newer make, or model, or both;
- their style of clothes;
- the heating system in their homes;
- the way they pay for goods.

Yet the church must stay the same. Why? John Bell once said that most churchgoers get their theology from the hymns they sing. Thus it is important to ensure that the hymns we sing have good theology. He quoted as an example words from *'Abide with me'*: 'O Thou who changest not abide with me'. Thus they believe, wrongly, that God is against change! Yet in Scripture God says, **"I am making everything new."** [see Revelation 21:5]

When Jesus met with his disciples to share the Passover Meal just prior to his arrest and execution, he changed the meaning and significance of that meal for ever. The great Jewish celebration of the hurried meal prior to their departure from Egypt, the meal where the lamb was slaughtered and its blood sprinkled on the doors to prevent the angel of death striking their firstborn, was so special to Jews that when they recall the suffering of their forefathers in Egypt they do not say, "When our forefathers were in Egypt," they say "When we were Egypt."

Who would dare to make any alteration to all the symbolism of that meal?

Answer: Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ). Jesus boldly turned the disciples' attention from the lamb to himself. He was going to be a far greater sacrifice than any lamb. Forget the blood of the lamb sprinkled to save God's people from physical death. It would be the blood of Jesus, the blood of God made flesh, that would save God's people: and not from physical death but from spiritual death!

From Passover to Communion! **"This bread is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me . . . This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."**  
[see 1 Corinthians 11:24 - 26]

Today Jesus still says to us, "Take, eat. Take, drink." In so doing we proclaim **"the Lord's death until he comes."**

A change? Yes. But more importantly an upgrade!

Keeping central:

- the Word of God, the Bible;
- our worship of only one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- giving ourselves as living sacrifices to him [see Romans 12:1],

may we so live our lives that we glorify, honour and praise our God and Saviour, not just this week but from now right through eternity.

**To God be the glory!**

Yours in Christ,  
Douglas