

# Take-Home Two

## *The Sacrifice*

### **Abide**

*The Eucharist, Grace, and Staying in Christ*

## **What We Found**

The Passover was not finished when the lamb died. Exodus 12 commands that the lamb be roasted and eaten that same night, entirely, with nothing left until morning. An Israelite who marked his door and skipped the meal had not kept the Passover.

St. John frames the crucifixion as exactly this. He dates it to the day of Preparation, and he records that the soldiers did not break Jesus's legs, saying explicitly that this fulfilled the Scripture, which is the rule for the Passover lamb. St. Paul puts it in a single line: Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7.

And we read what the Church actually teaches, which is that the sacrifice of the cross and the sacrifice of the Mass are one single sacrifice, the same victim offered by the same priest, differing only in the manner of offering. The Mass adds nothing to Calvary. It makes Calvary present.

## **Voices of the Church**

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#### **The Didache**

*ch. 14 (summary)*

A very early Christian handbook tells believers to gather on the Lord's day, break bread, and give thanks, having confessed their sins so the sacrifice may be pure, and applies Malachi's pure offering among the nations to what they are doing.

### **Voice of the Church**

#### **St. Cyprian of Carthage**

*Letter 63 (summary)*

The priest acts in the place of Christ and offers what Christ offered. Cyprian is regulating practical details, which means the sacrificial character was already settled for him.

### **Voice of the Church**

#### **St. Augustine**

*City of God, Book X (summary)*

The whole redeemed community is itself the sacrifice offered to God, and at the altar the Church learns that in what she offers, she herself is offered.

## Ready Response

**“Hebrews says once for all.”** Agree first and agree warmly, because you mean it. The sacrifice is one, unrepeatable, and completely sufficient. Then say the sentence the group had to learn: the Mass adds nothing to Calvary, it makes Calvary present. This is where knowing CCC 1367 in your own words earns its keep.

**“Jesus said it is finished.”** Agree without qualification. The work of redemption is finished and nothing you do on Sunday adds to it. Then go back to where the session started, which is better ground anyway: the Passover was not over when the lamb died. Exodus 12 commands that it be eaten that same night, entirely. Ask your friend whether an Israelite who marked his door and skipped the meal had kept the Passover.

**“It is just a symbolic meal.”** Ask what a biblical memorial is. Exodus 12:14 calls Passover a memorial to be kept forever. Then read Exodus 13:8, where the father explains the meal to his son in the first person, as what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt, spoken generations after the event; Deuteronomy 6:20-23 answers the son the same way, we were Pharaoh’s slaves and the LORD brought us out. That is not recollection at a distance. The one keeping the feast counts himself among those brought out, and CCC 1363 says the Church’s memorial works in exactly that biblical sense.

## Live It This Week

- Read Exodus 12 and John 19 back to back in one sitting.
- At Mass, listen for the words that name it as an offering. They are there every time.
- Learn CCC 1367 well enough to say the substance in your own words.
- Keep praying for your person by name.

## Memory Verse

“For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed.” **1 Corinthians 5:7**

## Before Next Session

**Read:** Galatians 4:4-7. Four verses. Count how many family words Paul uses.

**Catechism:** CCC 1362-1367. If you read only one, read 1367.