

LORD'S SUPPER: Always Remembering

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

ATTENTION:

One way I use my phone most is as a reminder so I don't forget

ATTUNE:

One of the most significant practices we participate in on Sundays is Communion/Lord's Supper – a simple act with great significance!

BODY/SOLVE: Lord's Supper = Remain Divinely Focused

I. THE LORD'S SUPPER CONNECTS US WITH HISTORY!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A. Beginning at Passover - An Event Rooted In History

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread (v.23)

- There is a specific historical context chosen intentionally
 - This began on Jesus' last night with his disciples
 - He/they - observing the most special feast - Passover
 - Passover was an annual feast God called His people to celebrate - A reminder of God's delivering them from slavery in Egypt.
 - It was the celebration of the redeeming act of God rescuing His people.
 - When we eat the Lord's Supper we link to the history of Passover and the God of deliverance! It makes us part of something bigger, grander and more amazing than the pinch of bread and drink of juice - this is an act of faith which empowers - frees us.

- As we commune together remembering the cross of Christ we acknowledge that...
 - In the middle of the world's evil there is the God who is good
 - In the midst of Satan's wickedness, there is the God of holiness
 - In the middle of humanity's sin, there is the God of grace
 - Whenever the world is at its worst, there stands the cross of Christ, the heart of God.
 - A VALUE OF GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE TOGETHER IN THE LORD'S SUPPER is that no matter the difficulty, hardship, the confusion, sin, question, temptation, need - WE ARE REMINDED THAT THERE STANDS THE CROSS OF CHRIST, the sacrifice of Jesus and His victory over evil!
 - This awareness gives us His strength and sanity as we live our lives in this crazy world.

II. THE LORD'S SUPPER REMINDS US OF THE DEPTH OF OUR SIN AND THE DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE!

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- Remember - Refocus - Recall - Reconsider the cross of Christ
 - It reveals both the depth of sin and of God's love!
- **See the depth of our sin:**
 - Sin caused this amazingly cruel death.
 - Sin is so serious Christ had to die to save us from it.
 - It was our sin - yours and mine!
 - We were there!
 - We have betrayed him; ...turned and run when we should have stood; ...hastily denied him; ...acted self-righteously; ...quickly compromised.
 - He assumed our flesh and blood; then he bore for us the wrath of God, under which we should have perished.

- He took upon himself the curse due us so He might fill us with His blessings
- He humbled himself unto death, even the bitter and shameful death of the cross,
- He cried out with a loud voice, *My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?* ”
- THERE WE ARE REMINDED OF THE DEPTH OF OUR SIN!

- **See the depth of His love:**

- Jesus' death was not a suicide, not a normal execution, not a martyrdom; but it was because...

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

- Gathering here reminds us - made whole by His love!!
- We remember the sacrifice we've caused our Lord so we will never forget the love with which He bore our sins.

III. THE LORD'S SUPPER PROCLAIMS WHAT WE KNOW!

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (v. 26)

- **For whom are we proclaiming the Lord's death?**

- **TO THE POWERS OF DARKNESS**
 - The evil that hovers around us.
 - Confronting them boldly with the reality of Christ and the power of His authority.
- **TO THE LORD OF HEAVEN**
 - Declaring our love for Him.
 - We are telling Christ what we think of him and what He means to us.
- **TO OURSELVES ABOUT OUR HOPE**
 - *until he comes.*
 - He will come again!
 - The cross is empty - the tomb is empty - Jesus is alive
 - He is coming again! He will return!
 - Communion keeps our hopes alive!

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time,

not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:27-28

PROJECT:

So we come today from the rush of life, maybe frazzled, worn, defeated.

- But for a moment, we will encounter Jesus.
- Time will stand still because of His love.
- There will be communion between each of us and Jesus the Christ!
- It's as though we stand beneath the cross of Jesus together.
- That's why, until Christ comes, we proclaim his death around this table - the Lord's Supper

ACTION:

So come, trembling because of the depth of your sin
 But also come rejoicing because of the depth of God's love.
 Come together as a church family - united as one
 Come and trust Him again!
 Give yourself to him again!
 Renew you vows to him!
 Get near to him; hold him!
 This is what we do until He comes!

PRAYER: