

Thanksgiving Service

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Section 1: 11:23-26 – Grace Upon Grace

*²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took **bread**, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way also he took the **cup**, after supper, and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (CSB)*

Received from the Lord

Matthew 26:26-30 – Mark 14:22-26 – Luke 22:19-23 – *John 13*

Elements of the Meal

The Passover Meal had many different food elements. And they all had various meanings. Why is that important? This simple observation is what separates Roman Catholics and the majority of protestants when it comes to Jesus reassigning meaning to the bread and the cup. We, WFBC, do not believe that the bread and juice become the literal body and blood of Jesus. We affirm that it is symbolic of those things.

6 foods of the Seder Plate

- **Maror** (Bitter Herb/horseradish) – symbolizes the bitterness of slavery.
- **Z’roa** (Lamb Shank Bone) – symbolizes the sacrificial lamb that was slain and the arm of the Lord.
- **Charoset** (Fruit Mix) – symbolizes the mortar and bricks.
- **Chazeret** (Romaine Lettuce) – symbolizes their time in Egypt: starts sweet and ends bitter.
- **Karpas** (Greens) – symbolizes life.
- **Beitzah** (Hard-boiled Egg) – symbolizes new beginnings and hope.

3 Additional Items Around the Plate

- **Salt Water** – symbolized the tears and sweat of the people.
- **Matzah** (Unleavened Bread) – symbolizes the affliction of the people. It can also symbolize freedom.
- **Cup** (Grape Juice) – symbolizes redemption.

My Body Broken for You

Jesus is speaking of the type of death He would die when He breaks the bread. He was flogged, beaten and hung on a cross. Jesus would be striped and pierced. Looking at the bread it seems obvious why Jesus would “re-symbolize” the bread. It looks striped and pierced. Isaiah 53:4-6 (CSB):

Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. ⁶We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all.

Jesus was afflicted for our sins. What an amazing reality that God the Son would bear our sins and then put His righteousness upon our account.

The Matzah is unleavened bread. The Matzah is also known as the Bread of Affliction. It symbolizes the hardship of slavery. But it also has a dual meaning...it can also mean bread of freedom. It could be made quickly while they were fleeing the Egyptians in the desert.

New Covenant

Jesus uses the cup of juice to point us to the New Covenant. Throughout the Old Testament covenants were sealed in blood. This covenant is unlike any other, it is sealed with the blood of the Messiah, the Son of God. And this New Covenant has two parts, an immediate grace and then an eternal blessing. Let's trace the New Covenant from Jeremiah to Revelation.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 → Matthew 27:32-28:8 → Revelation 21:1-8

The promise of Jeremiah 31 is partially realized now and will be fully realized in Revelation 21:1-8. Too often we act as the Pharisees. Their expectation of the Messiah was for instant kingdom domination. They were looking for the Messiah to show up, establish a kingdom and dominate the world. Will Jesus show up and establish a kingdom on Earth? Yes. Has He done so yet? No. The New Covenant will not be fully experienced until the end of this age. So, what do we do? We patiently wait on Jesus by loving God, loving others, sharing the gospel and glorifying Him in all things.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How often do you consider all that Christ endured on your behalf?
- ❖ Why is Jesus' blood necessary for our redemption?
- ❖ Are you looking forward to the kingdom to come?
- ❖ How are you glorifying God today while waiting on His kingdom to be established?

Section 2: 11:27-32 – A Warning

²⁷So, then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep. ³¹If we were properly judging ourselves, we would not be judged, ³²but when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined, so that we may not be condemned with the world. (CSB)

Unworthy Manner

What is an unworthy manner? Simply put, living with or embracing known unrepented sin. The call of Christ is total surrender. Paul warns the Corinthian Christians because many are becoming sick, ill and sleeping (dead). Following Christ is something we should take very seriously but apparently many were half-hearted or outright rebellious in their faith.

Examine Yourself

We are to come to the remembrance of the gospel with reverence and awe. Remembering why we had to be saved and how glorious the calling God has given us (salt and light). This is a time where we "reset" so to speak. Life has a way of distracting us from who we are in Christ and who Christ has called us to be. Therefore, we must stop, pray, confess and repent. Praise be to God that we have 1 John 1:9 (CSB):

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Are you faithfully seeking Christ above all? If not, what is holding you back?
- ❖ What role does repentance play in your life?
- ❖ How often do you "reset" and make sure your living for God's glory and not your own?