

“Do This in Remembrance of Me”

Luke 22:14-20

Idea: The Lord’s Supper is a meal whereby we remember Christ’s sacrifice.

Intro: This morning we come before the Lord’s Table together to observe the meal that Jesus shared with His disciples on the eve of the crucifixion. We commonly refer to this meal as “The Lord’s Supper.” Some refer to it as “Communion.”

What is The Lord’s Supper? And how should we observe it? In the Old Testament we discover that the people of Israel routinely held sacred assemblies or official occasions whereby God’s people collectively gathered together to worship the Lord, to repent of personal and corporate sin, to remember God’s blessings on them, and to anticipate future blessings. These prescribed assemblies included the Sabbath, the first (Passover) and seventh days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the first and eighth days of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Sacred assemblies were times for God’s people to confess and repent of sin. They were times to renew the covenant relationship with the Lord and return to Him in faithful love and obedience. They were times for worship and sacrifice, feasting and fasting. God’s people like us today, had a tendency to stray from the Lord and His Word. The spiritual leaders knew the sacred assembly was a time for corporate repentance in the face of God’s righteous judgments. As a result many national revivals were birthed during times of sacred assembly.

These sacred assemblies were serious; thus, they were not to become casual to the Jews. Today, we don't observe the Feasts of the Old Testament. Those feasts have been replaced by the meal that Jesus shared with His disciples that we call the Lord's Supper. Like the sacred assembly, this meal is to be observed seriously, prayerfully, and reflectively.

One missionary from West Africa was confronted by how casual he treated this meal. During his first term as a missionary, he became the pastor of a local church. One Sunday he realized that the congregation had not celebrated the Lord's Supper since his arrival. He announced in the morning service that they would celebrate it that evening.

An elder on the front row began to weep and said, "Pastor, you must not ask us to do this. We always spend at least a day preparing ourselves for the Lord's Supper. We haven't had time to prepare. It would be offensive to God for us to come unprepared." That morning, this missionary pastor realized that the people in his church treated the Lord's Supper with much greater respect than he was accustomed to. And so should we.

Read Luke 22:14-20.

Inquiry: Join me on a mental journey back in time. Go with me to Jerusalem the day before Jesus died on the cross. Jerusalem is filled with people who have come to celebrate the great festival – the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. People crowd the streets. Worshipers chant psalms of praise as they remember the miraculous way God brought Israel out of Egypt. An elder from each family or group takes a young lamb to the temple. After three loud blasts from the silver trumpets, the lambs are killed. Blood from the lamb is sprinkled on the altar. Then the elders return home to roast their Passover lambs for the evening meal.

Peter and John are there. They are preparing for Jesus to celebrate the Passover with His twelve disciples. In an upper

room a table is set with bitter herbs, unleavened bread, and four cups of wine. The roasted lamb is brought to the table as the twelve disciples gather with Jesus. Little do they know that this will be the last Passover meal they will eat with their Master.

Jesus will eat the next meal and drink the fruit of the vine when the Kingdom of God is fulfilled. The Lord described for His disciples what the elements symbolized. The bread represents the body of the Lord Jesus that was broken on the cross for us. In a similar way, the wine represents the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross for us. It is the blood of the new covenant between God and His people.

The original Passover meal was a time to remember God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Jesus established the Lord's Supper as a time to remember Him and His sacrifice to deliver people from their sins. He said, "*Do this in remembrance of Me.*"

In the Lord's Supper...

1. We remember who Christ is.

Who is Jesus Christ?

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus (John 1:6-8), was baptizing in the Jordan River one day. He looked up and saw Jesus approaching him among the crowd that stood on the bank. Immediately, John declared, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) Some time later, John was put in prison for preaching. He sent his disciples to Jesus to ask if He was the Messiah or if they should look for another. Jesus responded, "*Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news*

preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." (Matt 11:4-6)

Who is Christ? He is God the Son. He is Lord and Savior. He is Immanuel. He is God who dwells with mankind. In the Lord's Supper we remember that we have not been forgotten or forsaken. We remember that God has come to us.

2. We remember what Christ accomplished.

The Lord's table provides a powerful symbol of the sacrifice Jesus made to provide for our forgiveness. Let's reflect on the broken body and shed blood symbolized in the bread and wine.

Before Jesus was born, the angel Gabriel visited both Mary and Joseph and declared that the baby Mary carried was no ordinary baby. He was the Son of God who would save His people from their sins (Luke 2:10-11; Matt 1:21).

Jesus, however, didn't come to simply proclaim sinners forgiven. He came to receive the judgment against sinners so that they might be forgiven.

...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. – Heb 9:22b

There on the cross God the Father exhausted His wrath upon God the Son. God's just judgment against our sin was unleashed on Jesus as He hung on the cross. Therefore, as the Lamb of God, the blood that He shed became the atoning sacrifice that satisfied the justice of God the Father. So now because of Christ the words of Isaiah become reality: *though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. – Isaiah 1:18*

What did Christ accomplish? Atonement. He paid the penalty for your sin so that you can be forgiven of all sin.

3. We remember that Christ will return.

The sacred assemblies in the Old Testament were shadows of realities that are found in Christ. In a similar way, the Lord's Supper is a shadow of something to come – the marriage supper of the Lamb.

7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." – Rev 19:7-9

Positionally, the Bride of Christ is ready for the return of Jesus. Practically, however, I doubt many of us would say that the Bride is ready. The angel here informs us that the Bride must be ready for His return at any time.

Jesus told the disciples that He wouldn't eat the meal or drink the cup until the Kingdom of God is fulfilled. The marriage supper of the Lamb is that fulfillment of the Kingdom. What a special day that will be for the church!

The Lord's Supper is not just a time to look back at the cross. It is also a time to look forward to the Lord's return for His bride. And as the bride we want to be clean and pleasing to Him when He returns.

Conclusion: *27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. – 1 Cor 11:27-28*

As we behold Christ, by looking back at what He accomplished, and looking forward to His return, we should also prepare ourselves. There is danger in partaking of the supper in an unworthy manner. Therefore, we should ask ourselves two questions.

First, am I in the faith? In other words, has there been a time when I have knowingly and willingly confessed my sin to Jesus and received His forgiveness. The Lord's Supper is reserved for those who are in relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not a religious ritual meal whereby you can please God. It is a meal of remembrance whereby you are confronted with the reality of sin and of a Savior. It is meant to lead you to a place of celebration and sanctification. That cannot happen if you have not yet come to the place of confession and repentance of sin.

Second, are there sins that I am holding onto? Are there actions, habits, and strongholds in my life that need to be confessed to Jesus and repented of? Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we must judge or properly evaluate ourselves. Is there...

- Unbelief – not believing God will keep His word
- Rebellion – disobedience, living your own way
- Pride/arrogance – thinking more highly of yourself
- Bitterness and unforgiveness
- Sins of the tongue – gossip, slander, murmuring, lying, cursing, obscenity
- Dishonesty, deceit
- Mental impurity, filthy thought life
- Addiction to harmful & illegal substances
- Addiction to sexual sin
- Sexual immorality

- Stealing, cheating
- Anger, hatred, malice, rage, uncontrolled temper
- Idolatry – loving something more than God
- Poor stewardship of time and resources
- Taking advantage of others
- Prayerlessness
- Injustice, failing to defend the oppressed
- Murder, hating others without cause
- Causing strife, conflict, & dissension in the church
- Worshiping with my lips when my heart is far away from loving the Lord
- Leaving my first love for Christ by loving other people, things, or activities more than the Lord

Allow time for people to take their sins to God.

We are a covenant body of Christ that takes both our relationship with Jesus and community with one another seriously. We celebrate all that Jesus has done in us, and we celebrate the covenant we share with one another. We don't believe we are here by chance. Instead, by grace, God has brought us together so that we might express the life of Christ before a watching world. If you agree with that say, "Amen."

Fence the table for the Lord's Supper. If you are in relationship with Jesus Christ, you have been scripturally baptized (immersion), and you are not holding onto unconfessed sin, then I invite you to participate in the Lord's Supper this morning. However, if you are not in relationship with Jesus Christ, or if you are unwilling to confess and repent of some sin, then I encourage you not to participate. Perhaps, God has shown you today that you need to trust Christ as Lord and Savior.

Observe the Lord's Supper