

The Sacraments Part 1 - "Communion" (2-22-26)

Introduction: Focus on The Sacraments in this season of reflection on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

1) Remember

Matthew 26:26-28 (ESV)

[26] Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." [27] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, [28] for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Notes: Looking back . . . Remember Jesus and the Cross

(26) The Bread - *Broke it and Gave it (His body broken for us - so we can be made whole)

*Pattern repeated at Emmaus road meal, feeding of the 5,000, Paul at sea in the storm

(27) The Cup - Giving Thanks (Greek: Eucharisteō) - (His blood shed for us - forgiveness of sin)

- Remember Jesus . . .

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (ESV)

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- Remember each other, and the life we have in Him . . .

Colossians 1:3, 9-14 (ESV)

[3] We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you . . . [9] And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, [10] so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; [12] giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. [13] He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Note: As we remember that we have been brought out of darkness and into Jesus' Kingdom of Light, may we be filled with knowledge of Him, as we live a fruitful life, and endure all with joy!

2) Reveal

Resurrection Sunday - 2 travelers of Jesus' core group, grappling with what has taken place, and the report of the woman and a couple disciples, are walking on the Road to Emmaus. Jesus meets them but his identity is hidden from them. After listening to their recap of events, He spoke . . .

Luke 24:27 (ESV)

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Note: At the end of the journey they urged him to join them for the evening meal . . .

Luke 24:30-32 (ESV)

[30] When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. [31] And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. [32] They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

Note: Looking around . . . seeing Jesus present here and now!

Luke 24:33-35 (ESV)

[33] And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, [34] saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" [35] Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Note: They shared this with others, how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Sacrament of Communion is a call to both inward and outward reflection . . .

1 Corinthians 11:26-32 (ESV)

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. [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. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. [30] That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. [31] But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. [32] But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Notes: Recognition, Confession, and Reconciliation

- The importance of zealous repentance

Revelation 3:19 (ESV)

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Note: What am I zealous for? What do I long to see accomplished?

Perhaps we should start with Jesus' loving call that we be zealous to repent!

Further Reflection: Hebrews 12 is a great guide for understanding and receiving the Lord's loving discipline

3) Rejoice

Matthew 26:29-30 (ESV)

[29] I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." [30] And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Note: Rejoice (see Heaven) – looking ahead . . . a vision of what's to come!

Let's rejoice as we consider what awaits us, and let's comfort one another with hope along the way!

- Partake and Share in the Abundance of Jesus . . .

After a long season of ministry, Jesus provides for his disciples and thousands of others with seemingly little

Matthew 14:19-20 (ESV)

[19] Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. [20] And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

- Find Strength and Comfort in the storms of life . . .

While in the midst of an extended storm that is threatening their lives, Paul encourages the crew

Acts 27:35-36 (ESV)

[35] And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. [36] Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves.

Conclusion: As we regularly partake of the Sacrament of Communion, may we live a life of sacrament. Remembering Jesus, seeing Him revealed in the here and now as He truly is active and present in our lives, and rejoicing for the hope we have in Him as we share in His abundance while He sees us through life's storms.