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2 **Matthew 26:26-27**

- *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.*
- *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*

3 **Luke 22:16-18**

- Jesus gave His disciples the cup to drink but did not drink from it Himself. Why?
- *For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.*

4 **The Lord's Table Reveals
True Character**

- Jesus was revealed as the Sacrificial Lamb.
- Jesus revealed three things about His disciples that night:
 - One would betray Him.
 - One would deny Him three times.
 - All would be offended because of Him.

5 **Communion Opens Our
Spiritual Eyes**

- Disciples on the road to Emmaus:
 - Failed to recognize Christ while they talked with Him.
 - Their hearts burned within them while He explained the Scriptures.
 - Recognized Christ only at the meal (Luke 24:30-31).
 - *And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.*

6 **The Purpose of Communion**

- To know Christ in an intimate way in the power of His resurrection. To experience His life flowing through us, we must:
 - Enter into the fellowship of His sufferings.
 - Become conformed to His death.
- Jesus longs for intimate fellowship with us.
 - *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

7 **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

- "Fellowship always springs from the Word and finds its goal and completion in the Lord's Supper."

8 **What Should Precede the Lord's Table?**

- Acts 2:42 -- *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
 - Preaching of the Word
 - Necessary for cleansing of the soul (John 15:3) -- *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*
 - Helps to make us holy (John 17:17) -- *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
 - Jesus explained the Scriptures to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
 - *Rhemas* in Scripture give us faith to understand who Jesus is and what He wants us to do (Romans 10:17).

9 **The Problems at Corinth**

- Communion can become ritualistic unless we remember the essential purpose for it.
- The Corinthian church used communion as an opportunity for self-indulgence.
 - Paul rebuked them for disorderliness and gave them instructions on how the communion table was to be observed.

10 **What Does God Require Before Communion?**

1. Conduct Self-Examination (1 Cor. 11:28)
 - Stern warnings for those who failed to do so (1 Corinthians 11:29-32).
 - Corinthian church used communion as an opportunity for self-indulgence; Paul rebuked them for disorderliness and gave them instructions on how the communion table was to be observed.

11 **Mathew 26**

- 26:21-22 -- *And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?*
 - Each disciple was concerned that he might have a weakness that would cause him to betray the Lord.
- Peter vehemently denied that he would ever be offended of Christ.
 - He said he was ready to go to prison and even die for Christ. He was not aware of his human weakness.
 - He had a spirit of pride.

12 **Three Key Questions**

- Do I love the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and do I reject all competing affections that would hinder my fellowship with Him?
- Do I love and care for my neighbor as I do for myself, and am I gentle towards all people?
- Do I eagerly look forward to the Lord's return and am I making the best use of the time God has given me?

13 **The Ideal Self-Examination**

- The most thorough self-examination would be to ask ourselves 49 questions that check our obedience to the 49 Commands of Christ.
- It is not something we can really do in 60 seconds of silence in church.

14 **Self-Examination Questions**

- Pride
 - Do I have an humble and repentant spirit? Have I repented of my sins?
 - Do I have a meek spirit – yielding my rights to serve others?
 - Do I rejoice when others speak evil of me and persecute me for doing good?
 - Do I love my enemies? Do I invest in their lives?
 - Do I give, pray, and fast in secret?
 - Do I judge others for the same faults I have?

15 **Self-Examination Questions (2)**

- Spiritual Growth
 - Am I attentive to God's truth?
 - Do I seek God's kingdom first? Or do I seek my own way?
 - Do I pray for my authorities to possess godly character and make wise decisions?
 - Do I show reverence for my parents and honor my authorities even when they give an unscriptural command?
 - Do I have power with God through times of fervent prayer and crying out to Him?
 - Do I pray God's Word back to Him?

16 **Self-Examination Questions (3)**

- Do I have a quiet spirit that trusts God?
- Do I keep Christ's commands before my eyes and do I hide them in my heart?
- Am I abiding in Christ and allowing His *rhemas* to live in my heart through meditation?
- Do I experience the power of the Holy Spirit enabling me to rejoice in trials?

17 **Self-Examination Questions (4)**

- Witness
 - Am I learning to be a fisher of men?
 - Am I joyfully doing good works so that others glorify God?
 - Do I have a spirit of generosity?
 - Do I go the second mile when given a responsibility?
 - Do I pray for God to send laborers into the harvest?
 - Have I purposed to die for the Lord so I may be a bold witness for Him?
 - Am I making disciples by teaching others Christ's commands?

18 **Self-Examination Questions (5)**

- Stewardship of Finances
 - Do I pay all my taxes?
 - Am I tithing to my church?
 - Do I give offerings to meet the needs of others?
 - Do I have a spirit of hospitality? Do I demonstrate this to the poor? Am I practicing thriftiness so I can give more to God's work?
- Conscience
 - Do I honor God's moral law and search it out to learn how I can love God and all others?

19 **Self-Examination Questions (6)**

- Have I reconciled to those who have something against me? Do I take responsibility for

my words and actions?

- Have I conquered lust in my heart and eyes? Do I exercise self-control for every thought and action?
- Have I kept my promises to God?
- Have I been truthful to others?
- Am I growing in spiritual maturity?
- Am I a cleansed “house of prayer?”

20 **What Spiritual Event Takes Place During Communion?**

- We affirm the blood covenant that exists between believers in the Body of Christ.
 - We are interconnected so that the entire Body is affected when one of us sins.
 - This corporate relationship is the basis for corporate fellowship, edification, reproof, and correction.
 - Powerful prayer can take place when there is a period of self-examination followed by mutual accountability and confession (James 5:16).

21 **What Elements Should Be Used in Communion?**

- Unleavened bread
 - Last Supper was actually the Passover Feast on the first day of the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread.
 - Yeast usually represents sin in Scripture.
 - The body and blood of Christ were without sin.
- Grape Juice
 - All three Gospel accounts of the Last Supper refer to “the cup” and “the fruit of the vine” and not to wine. Fermentation would imply yeast and therefore would be wrong.

22 **How Often Should We Celebrate the Lord’s Table?**

- “... as oft as ye drink it...”
- Early Christians in the first church celebrated it daily (Acts 2:46).
- It is something like taking a bath:
 - The frequency should be determined based on self-examination.
 - Some pastors postpone the Lord’s Supper when there are “problems” in the church. But that is when we most need a period of self-examination, confession, and repentance.

23 **Must Communion Always Be Held in Church?**

- The church is not the building.
 - Jesus conducted the first communion service in the upper room of a private home with 12 disciples (Matthew 26:17-20).
 - He broke bread with two disciples from Emmaus in a private home. Two was the minimum number required for a quorum for Christ to be present in the midst of a church gathering (Matthew 18:20).

24 **Must Communion Always Be Held in Church? (2)**

- Acts 2:46 – The breaking of bread took place “from house to house.” The early church met in homes.
- In Corinth, the communion was held in the local assembly and was to be separate from their regular meal (1 Corinthians 11:33-34).

- While Christ commanded the church to keep the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, He did not restrict it to operating in a church building.
 - It can be done wherever members of the local church meet.

25 **Why Did Jesus Not Drink the Cup?**

- Luke 22:18, 28-30
 - *For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. . .Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*
- Focused attention on His coming Kingdom.
- *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come"* (1 Corinthians 11:26).

26 **Application**

- Do I treat the Lord's Table with the reverence it deserves?
- Do I truly examine myself?
- Is communion just a ritual for me? Or something more?
- Do I prepare my heart in advance?

27 **Don't Just Go Through the Motions**