

Morning Sermon / November 21st, 2010
"Our Lord's Supper"
Matthew 26:17-30

I. We should understand Our Lord's
Supper in light of the Passover:

1. Our Lord initiates His Supper during the Passover –

Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" (Matthew 26:17 NKJ)

And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, `The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."'" (Matthew 26:18 NKJ)

So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. (Matthew 26:19 NKJ)

2. Yet, we should not think of the Passover as
"BEFORE" our Lord's Death –

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8 NKJ)

3. The Passover points forward to Our Lord's death on
the cross –

"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:28 NKJ)

4. The Lord's Supper memorializes it –

and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (1 Corinthians 11:24 NKJ)

II. We understand Our Lord's Supper in
light of its most important elements

1. Bread – symbolizing Christ's body, broken for us –

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." (Matthew 26:26 NKJ)

2. Wine – symbolizing Christ's blood, shed for us –

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."²⁸ "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:27-28 NKJ)

3. Bread – a staple, showing the necessity of feeding upon Christ –

But He answered and said, "It is written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 NKJ)

4. Wine – a luxury, demonstrating the abundant life provided by Christ

When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every

man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" (John 2:9-10 NKJ)

5. These elements are simple, not magic in and of themselves, the power is in what they point to for us

III. We must understand Our Lord's Supper in light of our own great needs –

1. Sin is the great problem of all mankind –

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NKJ)

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

2. The Israelite's bondage in Egypt pictures our own great bondage to sin –

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (Romans 6:6 NKJ)

3. Each of us, unless we have trusted in Christ, are dead in trespasses and sins, we are due God's wrath and curse –

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJ)

4. Christ, as the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, is a sort of spiritual lightning rod for those who trust Him, absorbing the wrath and penalty we deserved –

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1 NKJ)

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6 NKJ)

5. Our Lord's Supper is Our Lord's appointed way for us to remember, celebrate and thank God for what He has accomplished for us –

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NKJ)

A. If Christ thanks God for that which symbolizes His own death on our behalf, how much should we THANK GOD for the same!

B. Remembrance, celebration and thanksgiving are almost one and the same thing!