

Lighthouse Bible Church

February 3rd, 2013

Luke 22: 14 – 20 *Scripture Reading Matthew 26: 20 - 29*

‘Communion with the Lord’

Stand – Read – Pray

We are going to take a short break from the book of John this week because this is the Sunday that we celebrate communion together and what I would like to do is just focus on that for our time this morning. And this passage in Luke is a great place to do that.

This is the night of our Lord’s betrayal and He will soon be taken to some mock trials and then sentenced to death by crucifixion. In our passage here, Jesus, knowing that He is about to die as the Passover Lamb that will take away the sin of the world, takes His apostles to an upper room in the city of Jerusalem that Peter and John had pre-arranged with the master of the house. It is described as a **large, furnished upper room**.

And so they meet there and when the **hour had come** they began to celebrate the Passover meal. Normally this celebration is in commemoration and remembrance of the deliverance of the nation of Israel from Pharaoh in Egypt that was instituted back in Exodus 12, but Jesus has other plans.

Jesus is about to change the entire meaning of the Passover meal from remembering their deliverance from Egypt to remembering Him and what He is about to do for them. Because in just a few short hours Jesus will give His body to be savagely beaten and pierced as He will shed his life’s blood for them.

So He says to them in **Verse 15** with fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Jesus wanted to celebrate this Passover meal because He knew that it would be His last. He also had a **fervent desire to eat it with them** because He wanted to change the entire meaning of it. They probably wouldn't understand it at the meal in its fullness, but as they see Him **suffering** and bleeding and dying and after He raised from the grave, they will understand what He says here.

So in **Verse 19** Jesus **takes the bread and gives thanks and breaks it and gives it to them saying 'this is My body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of Me.**

Jesus says, 'you are no longer to look back at your deliverance from the bondage of Egypt as you eat this bread, but you are to look back at your deliverance from the bondage of sin through My atoning death on the cross for the punishment of your sin.

At this point they were probably trying to figure out what all this really means and trying to put it all together. He had already told them several times during His ministry that He was going to be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be mocked and scourged and crucified.

Now He tells them that He is giving His body for them, He is about to die, for them. Then He tells them in **Verse 20** likewise, **He also took the cup after supper saying, this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.**

Jesus says ‘not only will I give My body for you, but in the giving of it I will shed My blood as well, for you. In the parallel account in **Matthew 26: 28** Jesus says **for this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

They would have understood the O.T. animal sacrifice for sin that when that animal's blood, from the spotless animal was sacrificed atonement would be made for that sin. The difference with Christ's sacrifice is that it was once for all and all sufficient and the only sacrifice acceptable to God.

So from that Passover meal, that communion time, that table of the Lord on, believers were to celebrate that as often as they wanted to, but doing so to remember the sacrifice of Jesus in the giving of His body and the shedding of His blood.

That is what Paul says to the church at Corinth and us today in **1st Corinthians 11: 23 – 26** that **as often as we eat the bread and drink the cup we are to do it in remembrance of Him** giving His body and shedding His blood, and in so doing we **proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**

This is a celebration and a practice that is for believers only and should be something very special to us who are. In **1st Corinthians 10: 16** Paul says **the cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the COMMUNION of the blood of Christ. The bread which we break, is it not the COMMUNION of the body of Christ.**

That word COMMUNION in the Greek is the word *koinonia* and it means Fellowship or Partnership. Paul says, as a believer, you are fellowshiping, you are partnering with the blood of Christ. You are fellowshiping, you are partnering in the body of Christ.

In other words, we as believers, identify so closely and intimately in fellowship with Christ, because we are His, because of Him giving His body and shedding His blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our souls.

1st Corinthians 1: 9 says **we were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.** We not only have fellowship with the Son but **1st John 1: 3** says **we have fellowship with the Son and the Father both.** Not only that but **Philippians 2: 1** says **we have fellowship with the Spirit of God.** We have fellowship with the entire trinity of God in our communion time because of the body and blood of our Lord.

Not only that, but we have fellowship with one another that no unbeliever can have because **1st John 1: 7** says **if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another** and then listen to this **and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

You see, it is through the giving of His body and the shedding of His blood for the atonement of your sin and mine that, when we are born again by trusting in His sacrifice on the cross for our sins, dying in our place, raising from the dead and becoming the only way to eternal life, we can have intimate fellowship with Him and partake of His table to remember that.

So when we come to this table we do so remembering His body given for us and His blood shed for us. John wrote in **Revelation 1: 5** **to Him who loves us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.**

Peter wrote in **1st Peter 2: 24** **Jesus Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness.** Isn't that what **2nd Corinthians 5: 21** says **He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Paul said in **Ephesians 1: 7** and **Colossians 1: 14** about Christ, **in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

Isaiah writing about Jesus 600 years before His life and death said in **Isaiah 53: 5 – 6** that **He was wounded for OUR transgressions, He was bruised for OUR iniquities, the chastisement for OUR peace was upon Him and by His stripe WE are healed. Because all WE like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to His own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of US all.**

That is why John the Baptist said in **John 1: 29** as He saw Jesus coming **behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

So we have a lot to celebrate and a lot to remember when we come to this table because we have been forgiven for all of our sins, past, present and future, when we put our faith and trust in Jesus.

If you are here this morning and you have never had your sins forgiven, you have never placed your faith and trust in Christ alone for your salvation, then this table is not for you, because you have nothing to remember.

If you are here this morning and you have ever **transgressed God's law**, violated God's law, then you have sinned against God and the wages of your sin is death. If you have ever lied, even once, you are a liar and have violated God's perfect law. If you have ever been angry with someone, Jesus and John said that it is like committing murder in your heart. If you have ever lusted after someone you have committed adultery, sexual immorality, in your heart.

If that is you, listen to what **Revelation 21: 8** says **but the sinners and murderers and sexually immoral and all liars will have their place in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the 2nd death.**

1st Corinthians 6: 9 – 10 says that if **anyone has committed sexual immorality or adultery or homosexuality or stolen anything or coveted what someone else has, or is a drunkard or hurtful in their words towards others or taken money under false pretenses WILL NOT inherit the kingdom of heaven.**

You say Dale, that sounds like it is pretty hopeless for me then, what chance do I have; and the answer is none. It is hopeless for you and you have no chance Not in yourself. But it is not hopeless with God.

You see, **Romans 5: 8** says **God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were STILL sinners, Christ died for us.**

Listen to what the rest of the passage in **1st Corinthians 6: 11** says. **And such WERE some of you. But you were washed, but you were set apart, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

You see, you are now where all of us have been. All of us who are born again were saved from our various sins and forgiven for them because of Christ's taking our punishment on the cross for them, dying for our sins, being buried and raising 3 days later. We received Christ's righteousness and He took our sin. *Courtroom scenero.*

You can join us at this table when you first join Jesus at the cross and are washed in the blood of the Lamb.

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Matthew 26: 28, 1st Corinthians 11: 23 – 26

Communion with the Lord and One Another:

1st Corinthians 10 16, 1st Corinthians 1: 9
1st John 1: 3, Philippians 2: 1, 1st John 1: 7

What we are to Celebrate and Remember:

Revelation 1: 5, 1st Peter 2: 24
2nd Corinthians 5: 21, Ephesians 1: 7
Colossians 1: 14, Isaiah 53: 5 – 6
John 1: 29

Those who don't Celebrate and Remember:

Revelation 21: 8, 1st Corinthians 6: 9 – 10
Romans 5: 8, 1st Corinthians 6: 11

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