

The Institution of the Lord's Supper (Mark 14:22-26; John 6:53-56)

- Common for prophets of old to use dramatic, symbolic actions to make their point
- Ezekiel: bald prophet (5:1-3) Jeremiah's yoke (27:1-7) Ahijah (1 Kings 11:29-33)
- Jesus, the ultimate and final prophet, was in continuity with the prophets of old
- He dramatically interpreted the Passover & reinstated a radically new observance
- Jesus used words & symbols to powerfully convey important truth for humanity
- The meal before the disciples was related & explained: deliverance from Egypt
- Then the cup: This is the blood of the covenant which is poured out for many

I. The Meaning of the Bread (v 22)

- Jesus was not saying in these words that the bread literally became his body
- The bread referred to the life of Christ. Christ the bread of life took on a body
- He bore our sins on the Cross in His body, conquered the grave: body back to life
- He now lives in a glorified body at the right hand of the Father praying for us
- Thus through the bread we see Jesus' incarnation, death & resurrection, life.
- Partaking the bread symbolizes real participation in His life & in each others' life

II. The Meaning of the Cup (v 23,24)

- The redness of the wine in the cup represented Jesus' atoning blood
- "Poured out for many" represented those for whom Christ bled and died (Is 53:12)
- Jesus blood sealed the new covenant for all who would believe on him & be saved
- This cup is meant to convey to us the objective fact of our redemption in Christ
- It drives home the fact that Christ shed His blood on the Cross for our sins
- We will benefit most from the cup when we take it, saying in our hearts, "yes I really am forgiven" and resting on that objective fact (1 Peter 2: 24)

III. The Demand of the Bread and the Cup (John 6:53-56)

- These symbols powerfully testify & show their exacting demands upon our faith.
 - Having eternal life in Christ involves a real partaking of Him through faith
 - Greek word: vulgar, many turned away: "he who crunches my flesh has life"
 - It literally means, Christ must be as real to you as something you physically eat
1. Our sin: apart from redemptive blood of Christ: eternally separated from God
 2. Our faith: believe in the death & resurrection, exaltation & bodily return of Christ
 3. Our dependence: without Him we cannot live and dare not die