

## Upper Room – Part 5

### Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; I Corinthians 11:23-30

*“At this point in the narrative, it appears that Judas had gone, and Jesus was alone with the faithful eleven disciples. Then it was that He transformed the Passover of the Old Covenant into the Lord's Supper of the New Covenant, creating a new memorial feast to remember God's deliverance from sin.”*

*One Perfect Life, MacArthur, p. 410*

*Please realize, we explain the Lord's Supper by Jesus' death, but here to the disciples Jesus was explaining His death by the Supper!*

#### I. The Bread

**“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, (“Take eat” Matt. 26:26) This is my body which is given (“broken” I Cor. 11:24) for you: this do in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19**

“This is my body” – The statement from the Passover Meal was, “This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt.” The bread was remembering the suffering of Egypt. Now Jesus was changing the bread from looking back to looking forward to His redemption for our sins on the cross. I Peter 2:24; I Cor. 5:7

“broken”/“given” – Not accurate in literal terms; Jesus' body was mangled, but in literal terms no bones were broken (John 19:33-36) Jesus **gave** His body willingly for the sacrifice for sin for each person.

“this do in remembrance of me.” – Jesus transformed the Passover Meal into a different ceremony looking to his atoning death. “Don't forget my work!” This simple act was a monument to His death. Jesus didn't want His birth remembered, though angels proclaimed His coming and then sang at His birth, a star appeared, all Jerusalem was in a uproar; instead celebrate my death, it was a much better day because it was for **you and the remission of your sins!** Usually, when people are celebrated or remembered we do it on their birth date.

#### II. The Cup

**“Likewise also the cup after supper, (and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;” GK “Drink from it, all of you.”) (“and they all drank of it.” Mark 14:23) This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed (“for many for the remission of sins.” Matt. 26:28) for you. (“this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.” I Cor. 11:25)” Luke 22:20**

“This cup is the new testament in my blood,” – lit. “This is My blood of the new covenant” Blood was always needed to seal a covenant – Noah - Gen. 8; Abraham – Gen. 15; Moses - Ex 24:5-8 In the old covenant it was a continual sacrifice for sins but in the new perfect covenant there was a one time sacrifice making possible salvation for all of mankind. Heb. 8:6-13 Now it was not an animal's blood but Christ Himself. Speaking of the “new testament” the KJV Study Bible says that it is the, “God-initiated and God-fulfilled arrangement that results in the reconciliation of people to Himself.” Jesus is the mediator of this work. Heb. 9:12-15, 27-28

“which is shed...for many for the remission of sins.” – Jer. 31:31-34 This new covenant was necessary to enable God to forgive sin. Heb. 8:6; 9:11-15; 27-28; 10:1, 10; I Peter 1:18-19 This statement makes it clear that Jesus’ death was necessary to enable God to forgive sin.

“remission” = forgiveness 2 Cor. 5:21 “for many” – GK – “for the benefit of many” not just a few Matt. 20:28

*Our salvation is dependant on His death. Any other dependence is foolish  
and so insulting to the blood of the Son of God  
and the love of God that sent Him!  
John 3:16-18*

“in remembrance of me.” – Jesus transformed the Passover feast from remembering Egypt into remembering His offering for sin. “ye do show” I Cor. 11:26 - You proclaim the Lord’s death in the very act of taking of the Lord’s Supper.

Jesus took, gave thanks, broke it and gave them. He did not participate in the eating and drinking of the Lord’s Supper. Look at Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:17-18 It seems that there will be a continuation of the Lord’s Supper in the Millennium. We will again be remembering Christ’s great work of atonement for the sins of the world.

The text never hints that anything mysterious happens to these two elements. Jesus just used simple elements that would be part of food for the ages to come as a memorial not to His life but to His death!

What a wise God we serve. He took two basic food elements that will be part of every culture, society, and age and built His memorial around them. There is no place on earth and at any time that believer’s in Christ’s death cannot sit and remember Him with a simple bit of bread and a drink of juice! No travel to a far away place, no special ingredients needed! From the time Christ, to the time He comes again, from the North Pole to the Equator, from jungles to deserts. All believers can celebrate the atonement of Christ! What a wise God!

*“Jesus took two traditional parts of the Passover meal, the passing of bread and the drinking of wine, and gave them new meaning as his body and blood. He used the bread and wine to explain the significance of what he was about to do on the cross.” Life Application Bible pg. 1688*

*Jesus takes His very immanent death from calamity, disaster, and evil winning to being the greatest event of His life, the reason for which He had come. Fulfilling the plan of God in gaining redemption for the whole world! The cross was the **climax of His life!***

*“The Jewish Passover commemorated the exodus from bondage of Egypt. Jesus, our Passover, symbolized in the memorial supper, points to a greater deliverance, the redemption of mankind from the bondage of sin.” Christ of the Gospels, Shepard pg. 545*

### III. Paul's Teaching to the Corinthian Church - 20-25 Years Later

Love Feasts God Bad – I Cor. 11:17-22 According to Acts 2:42, 46, it was customary for the early church to eat and fellowship together and then climax the time by taking the Lord's Supper. For the poor and needy among the church, it was probably the best meal of the week! But as the years wore on, it lost the meaning of what had begun as an outpouring of generosity and love. Now, 20-25 years after Christ initiated the Lord's Supper, the time of a "Love Feast" or "Agape Feast" had become more hurt than help among the brethren.

1. Cliques had formed – v. 18-19 People ate with their own group and didn't mingle. Paul actually used this practice as a measuring stick to those who were true believers.
2. Selfishness had formed – v. 20-22 Rich sat with much good food to eat while the poor sat with little. Sharing had been lost. Also, some were even becoming drunk. The lack of sharing and gluttony of the wealthy group was shaming the unfortunate.

This time of feasting was more like the wicked idol worshipers around them. It had crept into the church of God. There was no love, no fellowship, and certainly no unity. This should not have been apart of the New Testament church. And Paul could only say, "shall I praise you in this? I praise you not."

A drinking party with friends, gluttony at the table, and shaming those without was hardly away to prepare for the Lord's Supper! v. 33-34

**"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered (this seems like the second time Paul has given the instruction of the Lord's Supper to the Corinthian Church) unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken (given) for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come."** I Corinthians 11:23-26

"For I have received of the Lord" – Paul seems to have received instruction of the Lord's Supper from Jesus Himself. He spoke of such teaching from the lips of Christ in other places in his epistles. I Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:3; Gal. 1:11-19 gives Paul's testimony and reveals his source of his early education in the Gospel of Christ! The teaching of the Lord's Supper was probably done from Christ to Paul somewhere in a desert classroom.

"this do" – Gk – strong word suggesting frequent participation.

"ye do show" – proclaim the Lord's death to others—believers and unbelievers! Not only looking back at the death of Christ but also looking ahead to Christ's return! Jesus also hinted at that great day! Matt. 26:29

“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.” I Corinthians 11:27-30

Paul gives a stern warning concerning the condition of the soul when taking the Lord's Supper. It is to be a time of careful soul searching and purification of the heart.

“unworthily” – GK “in an unworthy manner” – It is a serious thing to come without a prepared heart or in a careless manner. In Corinth the churches sin had caused God to have to discipline some of them. To become worthy one must examine, judge their own sins and confess them to God. That confession MUST begin a turning and a change to become more Christ like!

“not discerning the Lord's body” – We are to consider the holy gift of God. Jesus gave His body and shed His blood for our sins! Yet, are we so selfish and unthankful that we hold on to the very sin that He died for! That is not “discerning the Lord's body”! We are despising Christ's work when we hold on to sin!

“many sleep” – God has taken them from the earth, their lack of obedience has grieved Him and hurt the testimony of God and He had to remove them!

*Our salvation is dependant on His death. Participating in the Lord's Supper  
codling known sin, harboring bitterness, or living in faithless anxiety,  
is so insulting to the blood of the Son of God  
and the love of God that sent Him!*

*John 3:16-18*

*“Blessed sacrament that has helped men to live and to die for these nineteen centuries of grace! It is the imperishable memorial! Lofty monuments shall yet crumble as the earth shall be riven by earthquakes. The sea shall yet claim large spaces where the monuments of man now lift their tall heads. Massive statues shall disappear forever and bring down with them into oblivion the great names which they commemorate. Even might cities, whose navies go afar to bear their commerce and spread their fame, shall be brought to ruins, as Tyre and Babylon and Nineveh and Carthage, until there is scarce one stone left on another. All that men have done to establish and perpetuate their memories shall surely disappear in the coming of the new heavens and the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, but the name of Jesus shall be kept alive in all the earth and in heaven itself at the memorial supper of the Lord.” Christ's Table Talk – Hendrix p.117-118*

### **Believer's Application:**

#### **How should believers view the Lord's Supper in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church?**

Believer's Baptism - This is to be done at the beginning of the Christian life symbolizing the spiritual transformation of salvation. Death to sin & resurrection to new life!

Lord's Supper – All through out the believer's life we are to commemorate the atoning death of Christ. “Keep your eyes fixed on the cross for it is the shedding of my blood that has the power to forgive sins.” This is what the Lord's Supper remembers. It was not just for a few but many!

Bread & Fruit of the Vine – They are symbols – no special grace on either – no element is mysteriously changed. They are simple ageless elements used by Christ to convey a deeper meaning.

**1. We Should Look Back** – v. 23-26 Remember His death. We all hate to ponder the last days of life of those we love. Remembering their death brings us sadness. But that is exactly what Jesus wants us to remember! It was his death that has given us everything we have! It is the Gospel! I Cor. 15:3-4; I Peter 2:24; Rom. 5:8 Unlike a monument we visit in a park commemorating someone or some event, we don't admire and recall the historical event of Christ's death, instead we fellowship with Him in loving service, prayer and thanksgiving. He is ALIVE!

**2. We Should Look Ahead** – v. 26 - "till he come" One day we will be with Him! Someday this entire world and our tiring journey of life will be over. We are to continue observing the Lord's Supper until He returns. That day should be anticipated with joy and reverence.

**3. We Should look Within** – v. 27-30 "unworthily" or "in a worthy manner" That would mean examining our hearts and lives honestly; judging our sin and then confessing them to the Lord as well as forsaking them! To coddle our sin and refuse to confess it and leave it continue as a part of our lives is to be guilty of the blood and body of Christ. For it was for these sins He died! Heb. 10:29 Paul makes it very clear that God did not take sinning before the Lord's Supper lightly. Neither should we!

**4. We Should Look Around** – v. 22, 29, 33 Be careful to consider our relationships with other believers. This was the downfall of the Corinthian church Paul was dealing with. I John 4:11 They were lacking love for one another. Who should participate in the Lord's Table? 1. A true believer 2. A true believer right with God 3. A true believer right with God and his fellow believer

**5. We Should Give Thanks** – v. 24-25 Christ gave thanks, even though the cross was before Him, and so should we! Though this time of confession may bring grief and even tears, the Lord's Supper should be a time of thanksgiving for His death for sin and joyful anticipation of seeing Him one day!