

re-focusing our gaze



In the account of Luke (Luke 22:14-30), there is a lot happening during the Passover meal, famously known as the Last Supper. Some of which are that Jesus tells His disciples that He will suffer (His impending death), He establishes the sacrament of communion through the eating of bread and wine, and that one of the disciples will betray Him. Immediately after Jesus speaks of these things, the disciples launch into discussion on who is the one to betray Jesus, which somehow leads them to a dispute concerning who is the greatest among them.

It's not quite the reaction I would anticipate after Jesus tells them that He will suffer, but maybe the disciples felt the need to prove to each other who is worthy enough to sit at the same table as Jesus. Who wants to be labeled as the one that betrays Christ?

Oftentimes, I find myself responding in a similar manner as the disciples – in amidst of deep nourishment from the Gospel being extended through communion, I revert to having the focus be back on me. There's an internal dispute among my thoughts that occurs within me.

My failures.

My success.

My insecurities.

My inadequacies.

My struggles.

My imperfections.

My performance.

My pride.

How have I measured up to feel worthy before God?

However, resolving these personal questions and shortcomings are never a prerequisite to partaking in communion that Christ has offered. Rather, the bread and the wine are offered to remember that despite these things, we are always invited to participate in communion.

My prayer for this Easter is to not make looking inward our focus but to look outwards that make Christ the center of it all. The Gospel Coalition's article "The Lord's Supper" encourages us to "look" in different directions with the eyes of faith as we share in the Lord's Supper:

"First, we are to look back with gratitude to Jesus and his death at the cross (1Cor. 11:24). Next, we are to look around at the body of believers with whom we share the Supper. It is something we do as we come together (v. 17) and discern the body of Christ (v. 29) as we eat. It is significant that we share this meal as a community, and do not partake of it individually in our homes. Sharing the one bread together is a sign of our fundamental unity (1Cor. 10:17). We also look up to heaven, where the risen and ascended Christ intercedes for us as our great High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16). Finally, we look forward to the day when Jesus will return (1Cor. 11:26). The celebration of the Supper serves as a proclamation of Jesus' death which anticipates his return."

Let us quiet the voices that direct us to only look inward and re-focus on Christ and His words: "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."