



A Significant Supper

Do This in Remembrance #1 • October 26, 2025

Opening (Series)



“With this ring, I thee wed.”

My wife said those words to me nearly 27 years ago. But it was not this ring! The ring she mentioned is gold and has our names inscribed on the inside. It is kept safely in a container at home. The ring I’m wearing is a cheap silicone ring that came in a multipack from Amazon. It’s black and a little stretchy. The only thing inscribed on the inside is a ring size (*...which is 1-2 sizes larger than the one I had 27 years ago, hence the stretchy one instead of the original*).

I’ve never been too sentimental about the ring itself. I’m very sentimental about my marriage, just not the ring. It’s a **symbol** of our marriage, regardless of whether it’s gold or grey, solid or stretchy. The ring is a reminder to me that, yes, I’m married. And it serves as a warning to all those ladies on the prowl.

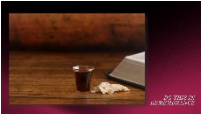
“Sorry, girls. This guy is off the market.”

Beyond that? I usually think of it as simply an ongoing accessory. Worn daily; contemplated rarely. It gets my attention when it catches on something, or if the skin around it has become irritated for some reason. Otherwise, it just “is,” an ever-present part of my routine.

As I prepared for today’s sermon, though, I pulled out my original ring from its storage place and looked at it. My knuckle is still too big for the ring to go back on my hand, so I simply held it. As I looked at it, suddenly the ring had weight – not physically, but emotionally. The ring had history! Its scuffs and scratches were a reminder of the years of my commitment to Deb. I felt a little like Gollum from Lord of the Rings thinking how “precious” the ring was, but that label is true. This ring *was* precious...*is* precious. It is a tangible marker of a deeply personal and spiritually significant commitment.

And I shouldn’t treat it casually.

A New Series



This morning, we are starting a short new sermon series called “Do This in Remembrance,” focusing on the ceremony we just completed before the sermon: **Communion**.

Communion. The Lord’s Supper. The Eucharist. Christians have called this activity many things over the years. It has been an ever-present part of our weekly worship routine.

But is the ceremony important? Is it *precious*? Or has our attitude toward it slipped into “silicone ring” territory?

Anything we do frequently runs the risk of becoming routine. And when that happens, we do well to remind ourselves of what it is we possess. It is true of rings; it is true of communion.

Perhaps it is time to renew our appreciation and understanding of this important sacrament! Perhaps we should take the opportunity to consider **how we approach** the table and **what we remember** as we do.

I don’t know what your church background is, how you were raised to think about communion, or how you’ve practiced it over the years...but today I want you to walk away remembering that **communion is a significant supper!**

Over the next three weeks, we are going to ponder and appreciate communion. We will go back to the roots of communion, see its centrality in worship, and respect its elements. At the end of the series, I hope our reverence for the Lord’s supper will grow. I want us to remember that it is precious!

Communion is a significant supper!

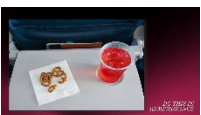


The Meal Behind the Supper



As I say that, maybe the word “supper” connected with this ritual throws you off.

Juice and a cracker hardly seem like supper!



If you’ve ever been on an airplane flight, you know one of the highlights (aside from the riveting emergency instructions provided before takeoff) is snack time! The stewards and stewardesses come around, ask you what type of beverage you would like, and then they return a little later

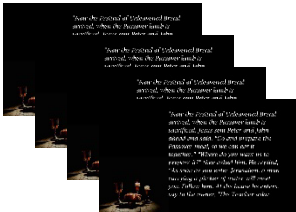
with juice or soda and a little something to munch on (like a package of dry roasted peanuts, or pretzels).

The food helps to pass the monotony of sitting there among strangers 30,000 feet above ground...but it's a snack, definitely not a meal!

Communion portions are much less than that! It is similar to the airline snack – a little juice, a little something to munch. It certainly is not a meal (...and really isn't much of a snack, either!).

However, the “supper” we describe when talking about communion isn't the food we are eating. The “supper” is what our food refers to. It is a small, tangible sample that points your attention to a significant meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.

If you have your Bible, turn to Luke 22:7. In this passage, we read about the meal...though we could also turn to Matthew 26, or Mark 14, or John 13. This dinner is so special that it is covered in all four gospels in the New Testament. Here is Luke's account:



“Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed.

Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, “Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.”

“Where do you want us to prepare it?” they asked him. He replied, “As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.”

They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table.

Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”

Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.”

He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

“But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him.”” (Luke 22:7–22, NLT)



The meal described here is maybe the most famous meal in history. It is commonly referred to as “The Last Supper.” It is the meal depicted in the famous mural by Leonardo Da Vinci (c. 1495), and shown in season 5 of “The Chosen,” the popular dramatization of the Gospels that you can stream online.

However you picture it, the words of the Bible are the focal point for us in church. And they help us see how **significant this supper was**.

It isn’t the artwork, or the films, or the food that made the supper special. It is the *meaning*.



A Meal with Meaning

This meal was the Passover meal – a special occasion with a special menu.

Our church will hold its annual Thanksgiving potluck in a couple of weeks (yes, really! Sign up today). On November 9 we will celebrate Thanksgiving together. And Thanksgiving is a meal with a meaning. The holiday meal is special for us because it signifies God’s blessings. We take the time to remember how He has provided for our needs, and we give Him thanks. The meal is also special because it highlights family connections. People make an effort to be together and share time with loved ones.

Beyond that, the menu is traditional. Each of us has our favorite, required dishes. Some look forward to the turkey, others the mashed

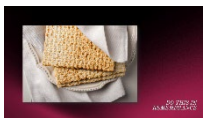


potatoes and gravy. It may be the only time of the year that some of you get cranberries and pumpkin pie!

Thanksgiving is a special occasion with a special menu.

For Jesus and His followers, the Passover was a regular tradition. And Peter probably loved the lamb, while Thomas was probably the weird one who liked the bitter herbs. The “last supper” wasn’t just a meal...it was a holiday meal, filled with tradition and meaning. Even more so than Thanksgiving, the Passover experience was imbued with importance.

In fact, I’d like to show a short video that illustrates the importance and background of Passover. It’s from our friends at the Bible Project. Please turn your attention to the screens:



>> Play: Explaining Passover and Why People Celebrate It Every Year

Each year, as the people ate the **lamb**, the **bitter herbs**, and the **unleavened bread**, and as they drank the **wine**, they tied it back to the events of **Exodus 12** and the *protection* God provided.

The “*pesakh*” meal had layers upon layers of meaning. The **meat** was from a lamb “without blemish,” a reminder of **holiness** and **sacrifice**. The bitter herbs were a reminder of their past **suffering** and **slavery**. Since yeast spoke of **sin’s** ability to grow and spread, unleavened (without yeast) bread was a reminder of purity and righteousness. Even the clothing for the meal was designed to have meaning:



“These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the Lord’s Passover.” (Exodus 12:11, NLT)

They were to eat with an eye on the future – on their imminent rescue from slavery and deliverance to a Promised Land.

Knowing that the Last Supper was a “Passover” meal, we see that it was **already a significant supper!**

But Jesus was about to take it to a different level.



A Meal with New Significance

Old things can gain **new** significance.

I spoke earlier of my wedding ring, and since I already went there, I'll refer back to my wedding for this point, too. On January 2, 1999, Deb and I said our vows, said "I do," exchanged rings, and then exchanged a kiss. We were husband and wife! But instead of the traditional recessional music, we snuck in a more whimsical tune as we headed down the aisle together.



>> Play "Linus & Lucy"

Yes, for some reason we chose "Linus and Lucy" by the Vince Guaraldi Trio. You might have fond memories of hearing that song from the Peanuts Christmas special each year, but for me it now and forever carries the new significance of marriage.

Old things can gain **new significance**.

And while the Passover meal was already meaningful and important, when Jesus sat down with His disciples to celebrate it, the meal took on new layers of meaning. Passover was just one more iconic Old Testament moment to find fulfillment and full fruition in Jesus.



For those who know your Bible stories, you know that certain things happen in the Old Testament that **foreshadow** or **look forward** to a future, fuller meaning in Jesus Christ.

- The story of **Abraham being asked to sacrifice his one and only son, Isaac**, in Genesis 22...
- The **punishment of the serpent** in Genesis 3...
- The rescue of **Noah's family** through the water in Genesis 8...

These are examples of stories that later find expanded meaning in the New Testament, once we have clarity about Jesus' identity and meaning. The extra layers of meaning aren't just a human invention. Jesus himself pointed out stories that found more meaning. For example, when he was talking to Nicodemus in John 3, Jesus referred back to an incident from Numbers 21.

"And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life." (John 3:14-15, NLT)

These Old Testament events found more significance in Christ!



So, when the disciples and Jesus gathered together in that upper room to celebrate the Passover Meal, this supper found new significance.

What did the meal signify as they shared it then?

- **Passover (*Pesakh*) signified rescue from God's wrath.** They wouldn't suffer the penalty of the death of the firstborn.
- **Passover (*Pesakh*) signified deliverance from slavery.** The final plague would be over, and their time as slaves would end.
- **Passover (*Pesakh*) signified imminence.** They ate in haste, with people dressed for departure.

What does it signify as we share it now?



- **Communion signifies rescue from God's wrath.** The bread and wine point to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His defeat of death! We are rescued from God's wrath because Jesus took our place!
 - o *"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."* (Romans 5:9, ESV)



- **Communion signifies deliverance from slavery.** The bread and wine point to Jesus' defeat of sin. We are no longer slaves to our weak, corrupted flesh.
 - o *"We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin."* (Romans 6:6–7, NLT)



- **Communion signifies imminence.** The bread and wine remind us of Jesus' promises, including His promise to return soon.
 - o *"Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds."* (Revelation 22:12, NLT)

Each element is elevated! There is **new, greater significance in this supper!**

It became more than just a meal; it became a covenant! It became a binding promise God makes!



"And he said to them, 'This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many.'" (Mark 14:24, NLT)

This is what the Lord's Supper means. The last Passover supper of Jesus now has more significance, because:

“... *Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*” (1 Corinthians 5:7, NLT)

Conclusion

*Whenever you go to Sam's or Costco, one of the things you often encounter is a salesperson handing out samples of products. They might offer you a small plastic cup with a bite of a granola bar or a beef tenderloin. They give you a small sip of a Gatorade or a ginger ale. The samples can be delicious or disgusting, but they definitely provide a fun adventure for shoppers. However, the store has a specific reason for offering a taste of free food: **the sample drives you to the product!***

Once you get a taste, you'll be directed to the main meal!

It's just like the verse in Psalms...

“Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!” (Psalm 34:8, NLT)

I'm not proposing we change to the sample cups they use, but our little plastic cups with a sip of juice and our little cups with a tiny sample of bread should do the same thing. The taste should drive us to the main meal!

Every time we taste, we should find our minds going back to the upper room, to Jesus and His disciples. Our sample should help us remember the meal they were sharing, and we should think about its meaning. We should consider the new implications and significance that Jesus brought to the elements of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. We should remember His victory.

We should take our sample, doing it “in remembrance of Jesus,” and declare that **communion is a significant supper!**

Is this your current attitude? Does our partaking of the Lord's Supper feel precious to you?

Do you truly understand the significance of this supper?

If not, you've forgotten it's magnitude. You've lost the meaning.

And I want to challenge you to do better!

I chose this topic because I want us as a church to draw closer to Christ.

This meal, taken together, is a habit. But it should be so much more than just a habit! It should not become mundane and routine. It should be special. It should be precious. It should be a reminder to remember and be an anchor point for your faith.

If you only attend online, or if you are infrequent here, you are missing out on something important. Jesus said, “*Do this in remembrance of me.*” So, join us. Make it part of your routine to be here and ready to worship with us.

If you take it casually, stop! Give yourself a chance to reflect and remember, to think about the difference a crucified and resurrected Savior makes in your life.

As we conclude, I’m going to pray...and afterwards we’ll go straight into singing our invitation song. Here’s what I want you to do:

- If you feel like you took communion casually today...I invite you to come up and take one more sample. (Not required, but offered)
- Approach the front as a baptized believer and take the cup and the bread.
- Return to your seat, partake of the elements, and spend a moment in quiet reflection...remembering Jesus, our Passover Lamb.

Let’s all remember that **communion is a significant supper!**



Prayer

Sermon Notes

The Meal Behind the Supper

(Luke 22:7-22)

A Meal with Meaning

(Exodus 12:11)

A Meal with New Significance

(John 3:14-15; Romans 5:9; Romans 6:6-7; Revelation 22:12; Mark 14:24 1
Corinthians 5:7; Psalm 34:8)

Sermon Discussion Questions

- How did you celebrate the Lord's Supper in previous churches? What was the practice, frequency, and emphasis like?
- Why do you think frequent participation in something sacred can sometimes cause us to lose our sense of awe or appreciation?
- Look up Luke 22, Matthew 26, Mark 14, and John 13 (and following). How are the depictions of the Last Supper similar? How are they different?
- Communion involves bread and juice (aka "the fruit of the vine"). Look at Exodus 12. What other elements are included in the first Passover meal and what spiritual truth might they symbolize?
- What is the value of taking a familiar celebration like Passover and adding new layers of meaning to it?
- How does communion show rescue from God's wrath (Romans 5:9)?
- If communion is a covenant promise from God (Mark 14:24), how does that impact that way you approach it weekly?
- The sermon mentioned that "old things can gain new significance." Can you think of a time when something familiar in your faith took on new meaning for you?
- What does it look like to treat communion as "precious" rather than routine?