

## The Blessing of Communion

7/27/25

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sunday AM

In case you can't tell by my shape – I love food! And while I don't do it very often, every once in a while, I enjoy splurging for dinner at a fine dining restaurant. Well...this week I was reading about some of the most expensive meals in the world if you have the money – and if you've lost your mind.

**FE** – if sushi is your thing – then Bar Masa in NYC will seat you for the low, low price of \$750 per person.

**If you're into burgers** – the Golden Boy Burger at De Daltons in the Netherlands will only set you back \$6,100. It's made w/ 100% Wagyu A5 beef, Beluga caviar, king crab, white truffle, and English cheddar.

**For the pizza coinsure** – the Renato Viola in Salerno, Italy will be happy to serve you the Louis XIII Pizza that has toppings like mozzarella di bufala, lobster, and caviar all flown in from around the world – for a measly \$9,184.32 – tip not included.

**Since we can't skip dessert** – the Fortress Resort/Spa in Sri Lanka offers the decadent Fortress Stilt Fisherman Indulgence Dessert featuring a gold leaf Italian cassata flavored w/ Baileys Irish Cream, mango and pomegranate compote in a champagne sabayon sauce – complete w/ a chocolate sculpture of a stilt fisherman w/ an 80-carat aquamarine stone – \$14,500.

While these meals are beyond extravagant – in actuality, they don't even begin to compare to the costliest meal ever served – and yet, this meal comes to us today free of charge b/c Jesus paid for it in full.

We call it the Lord's Supper (communion) – and the cost of this meal was life itself. The LS reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin. That is – *God made Him (Jesus), who knew no sin, to become for us – so that we could be made right w/ God* – 2 Corinthians 5:20.

**Raises the Question** – why do we do it and why is it so important to our faith and relationship w/ God?

*For I received from the Lord what I passed on to you – the Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

I We Partake to **REMEMBER** the Cross

The **Gospel** is simply the good news that God so love the world, that He gave us Jesus to lay down His life on an old rugged cross for the forgiveness of sin.

The LS is a symbolic remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross. As you know, the bread represents His body broken for us – while the cup represents His blood shed for our forgiveness. But in actuality – there's even more to it tying His death to the Passover.

While we may think that the LS is solely about the cross – it actually goes back another 1,400 years all the way back to the Passover event in the Exodus.

**While in Egypt**, God told Moses to have the people sacrifice a spotless lamb, spread the blood on the doorposts, and when He saw the blood, He would pass over them sparing them from judgment. After the event, God told them to remember this event annually w/ a meal marking their deliverance from slavery.

Fast forward to the Upper Room. Jesus sat down w/ His disciples to celebrate Passover. *But He changed it.* He took the bread/cup and gave them new meaning.

In saying, "This is My body/blood," Jesus was saying, "I'm the true Passover Lamb." I will be the sacrifice whose blood will be painted over the doorpost of your life so that eternal judgment will pass over you. Thus, just as God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, His sacrifice on the cross rescues all of humanity from the bondage of sin. So, every time we partake in the LS, we're remembering that our rescue came thru an act of God's grace just like it did w/ the Israelites in the Passover.

**This applies to the bread too.** During the Passover, the Israelites had to depart so quickly, they didn't have time to put yeast in the bread and allow it to rise. In the Passover celebration, Jesus – the true Passover Lamb, took unleavened bread, and after blessing it – broke it and gave it to the (11) – saying, "This is My body." That is – His body is the new manna, w/out sin, broken for the forgiveness of sin.

When we partake in the elements in the LS, we're (1) reflecting on Christ's love/atonement as our Passover lamb; (2) we're renewing our personal commitment to the Gospel; and (3) we're worshipping w/ gratitude the grace of God for our forgiveness.

II We Partake to **OBEY** His Command

*Do this in remembrance of me. 11:25*

We observe communion b/c Jesus invited us to remember who He was and what He did.

**Do this in remembrance of Me** is a **pr. act. imp.** In the Greek indicating a command to repeatedly observe the LS as a living memorial of Christ's atoning sacrifice. This in no way should be viewed as suggestion, but as a directive to actively partake in the elements regularly as a *rhythm of remembrance* embedded into the life of the Church and of every Jesus follower.

We're remembering that – God so love the world (including you/me) that He gave His only Son – that whoever would believe in Him, would not perish, but would have eternal life.

We're remembering that God stepped out of heaven and into humanity to seek and to save His lost creation. We're remembering that it cost God everything to rescue/redeem us from the power/penalty of sin.

*Jesus' death prearranged, prophesied, and provided by God, was no afterthought. He was born w/ the shadow of the cross upon Him – w/ the shadow of the cross upon His heart. He learned to walk. He learned to talk. And He learned to work. From His earliest moment on earth, it was His burden by day, His pallet/bed by night. Lee*

We're remembering just how far God had to go to save us – to reclaim us – and to make forgiveness possible.

**Thus** – communion is an act of obedience to Christ's direct instruction as part of our fellowship.

III We Partake to **PROCLAIM** His Return

*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 11:26*

This means that communion is more than a time of remembrance – it's a time of proclamation of our faith.

It's more than an act of personal devotion, but also a declaration of belief– *a visible sermon testifying* that (1) Jesus died for our sin; (2) His body broken and His blood spilled; (3) that He arose from the grave; and (4) that He will one day return in the future.

It's a God ordained mechanism not only to remind us of what Jesus did for us – but also a reminder of Jesus' commission on us. We're to live always ready to give an account of the hope that is w/in us.

You may remember the name Roger Staubach – he was one of the greatest QBs to ever play football. He won the Heisman while at the Naval Academy, served in Vietnam, then led the Dallas Cowboys to (2) Super Bowl titles. Long before he became famous, as a midshipman, he was known to have a quiet, consistent faith. At the Naval Academy, it was said he never missed taking the LS there at the chapel. When his father was in the hospital some years later talking w/ the chaplain, he shared that Roger felt so compelled to be at communion that it influenced (11) other cadets to come too – and they all trusted in Christ simply b/c of his faithfulness to participate in the LS.

*Being a Christian doesn't mean you're perfect – it means you've got Someone perfect to follow. RS*

**WTM** – let's gather together around this sacred meal w/ a renewed sense of joy/gratitude as we remember the gracious love God has for each of us.