

# COMMUNION

## Intimate Exchange of the Hearts

One of the last things he did before going to The Cross was to have a meal with his closest friends in a small room.

It is a time of intimate exchange. To give and to receive. To share, be transparent and real. To hear and to be heard.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-30**

**23** ...The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** 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." **25** 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." **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

As we come to the Communion table, there are three things we should remember.

**First**, we should look back. We are to participate in Communion in remembrance of Christ. Though we must

be reverent and must be appreciative of what Communion symbolizes, Communion also speaks of intimacy and fellowship. And so we look back. We look back to [the cross](#). We remember what Christ accomplished for us. And we are reminded of His love for us.

**Second**, we are to look ahead. The Scriptures say to do this "until he comes again" (1 Corinthians 11:26). The first time [Jesus](#) came to this earth, He came as the Suffering Servant. The next time, He will come as the Conquering King. Communion is an observance to remind us that Jesus will come again.

**Third**, Communion is a time to look within. We are to look within and invite the Holy Spirit to know our hearts and have our hearts. We come before the Lord transparent and real. We acknowledge that we need a savior, a comforter and a friend. Here's My Heart Lord! Trusting that in this Communion we will be fully known and yet fully loved!

So come to the Communion table in joy. Come in reverence. Come in honesty.

Today, when we partake of the bread, we are declaring that Jesus' health and divine life flows in our mortal bodies. And when we partake of the cup, we are declaring that we are forgiven and have been made righteous. Jesus' blood gives us right standing before

God, and we can go boldly into God's presence (Hebrews 4:16). When we pray, we can be sure that God hears us!

## The Stony Heart

Happy Resurrection Sunday!!

Much has happened on the world stage since the time of Christ, but nothing has ever eclipsed the magnitude and meaning of what happened in nearly 2000 years ago...the death and resurrection of the Savior of the world.

How huge!!

Are there things bigger than you

- that touches you
- that changes you?
- that leaves a mark forever in your life

Seems it is easy to get hardened!

- Events of great magnitude and importance. Seem lost in significance.
- Trending Videos – Massacres – Earthquakes and great tragedies. Does anything touch your heart anymore.

- **Bo Jackson**

- The Greatest Athlete of All-Time by ESPN
- Long Jump Nearly 25 feet
- 100 Meters in 10.44 seconds in High School
- 40 yard dash in 4.12 seconds hand time
- Heisman Trophy Winner...
- High Jump, Triple Jump, Long Jump, Shot Put, Discus, 55 Meter and 110 Meter Hurdles
- Drafted 1<sup>st</sup> Pick of 1986 Draft. But chose to play Baseball
- Play in ProBowl for Professional Football and The All-Star Game - MVP
- Seahawks. 3 TD's - 221 Yards Rushing 1987 against the Seahawks. Bo Jackson ran over Boz
- **The boy is casual and says...that's pretty awesome**

I don't fault the boy for not knowing who Bo Jackson and for possibly not even caring... despite the accomplishment and the mark Bo left on sports and on Brian Bozworth... Maybe he is just too young.

- The magnitude significant events and relevance of great people and the weight and worth of divine wisdom are increasingly being lost on this generation.

**When is the last time you have been touched in a way that it changed your life?**

## **The Stony Heart**

### **Can your heart still be touched?**

**Ezekiel 36:26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

- A heart of stone can hear God blasphemed and laugh at it
  - but our blood runs cold to hear God dishonoured when we have a heart of flesh.
- A heart of stone can bear to see its fellow creatures perish and despise their destruction
  - Suicide Jumpers
  - but the heart of flesh is very tender over others.
  - A heart of flesh would give its very life-blood if it might but snatch others from going down to the pit
  - The hard heart is selfish, cold, stolid. "Why should I weep for sin? Why should I love the Lord? Why should I give my heart to Christ?"

"Thou know'st I love thee, dearest Lord,  
But oh! I long to soar  
Far from this world of sin and woe,  
And learn to love thee more."

We see people come to Easter Services and I so want you to receive the message of God's Love. God So Wants you To have all of His Life!!

- Hard - When men sit in the house of God, armed up to their very chins in a coat of mail, it is not much wonder that the arrows do not pierce their hearts. If a man has an umbrella, it is no marvel if he does not get wet; and so when the showers of grace are falling, there are many of you who put up the umbrella of a hard heart, and it is no marvel if the dew of grace and the rain of grace do not drop into your souls.
- Hard - Some of you are growing old under the gospel
- and right spirit which God giveth to the regenerate
- If all these years the processes of nature have been at work with your heart, and have not softened it, have you not reason to conclude that it may be so even to the end?
- Hard - But, spiritually, you can no more impress the heart of man than you might leave a bruise upon a stone.
- Flesh Heart can be impressed when the seal of God's word comes upon it; it means a heart that is warm, for life is warm—a heart that can think, a heart that can aspire, a heart that can love—putting all in one—a heart of flesh means that new heart

There is one foe to the stony heart that lends the heart defenseless... **LOVE** penetrates and permeates. Love weakens resistance. Penetrates the scales. Love catches them off-guard. Love seems unfair. Love is untraditional and strange warfare. Love is odd and marvelous. It is a sight to see. Love makes no sense yet carries more words than the mouth could ever speak.

God Wants To Break Your Heart Today. (Speak to your heart) Impact...stamp...touch

The message of the cross is a message of God's love for you.

### **Privately Mocked and Beat**

**Matthew 27:27-31** –

**27** Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. **28** They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29** and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. **30** They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. **31** After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

- Keonna squishing our heads like grapes...

•

## **Jesus Was Not Murdered**

To think that Jesus was murdered would be to not understand the power of the cross or the extent of God's Love for you!

He chose to go to the cross. The week prior on what we celebrate as Palm Sunday...Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem.

**John 10:17-18 (NKJV)** - I lay it down

**17** "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

**John 10:11** –

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**John 15:12-13** –

**12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

The devil didn't kill Jesus....if anything the devil was simply an unwitting participant in God's plan of



Salvation. Like many things often times what the devil devised as an evil attack, God uses to bring about a far more glorious outcome!!

## **It is finished**

Who was it they loathed....they loathed their own flesh. Standing in judgment of others because of hatred of our own flesh.

### **Matthew 28:1-6** –

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

**2** There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

**5** The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

**6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said....

**God wants to Roll the stone away from your heart and Christ wants to rise in you!!**