



Title: Lord's Supper

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30

Date Preached: August 22, 2021

DISCUSSION STARTER:

When did you take your first communion? What do you remember about it?

DISCUSSION:

Read the scripture text as a group. If you were unable to worship with us on Sunday, you can watch this week's sermon at my.worthingtoncc.org/listen.

1. What is significant about the Passover? Why was it celebrated? (Read Exodus 12:1-28; 43-51; Exodus 13:1-16)
2. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' prediction of a betrayer? What is the difference between Judas' answer and the rest of the disciples? What can you learn from this interaction?
3. Why do you think Jesus gave thanks before instituting communion with his disciples? Why did he give thanks before the bread and the cup? How are we to be mindful of thanksgiving while taking communion?
4. Jesus said the bread represented his body and then he broke it. He said that the cup represented his blood and then he poured it. Why is this imagery so significant to communion? How do you think the early church reflected on this spiritual interaction post ascension of Jesus? Do you think it carried more meaning after the crucifixion? What does it mean for you today?
5. We often personalize communion, but Jesus instituted it with at least 12 others around a table. Why is it important to take communion together as a body of believers? (Read 1 Corinthians 11-26)

The New Covenant

When Jesus spoke of his blood as blood "of the covenant," he was surely claiming that, at the cost of his death, he was about to inaugurate the new covenant of which the prophet (Jeremiah 31:31) had spoken. This was a big claim. Jesus was saying that his death would be central to the relationship between God and the people of God. It would be the means of cleansing from past sins and consecrating to a new life of service to God. It would be the establishing of the covenant that was based not on people's keeping it (Exod. 24:3, 7), but on God's forgiveness (Jer. 31:34). – Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to Matthew* (p. 661)

MY NEXT STEP:

Considering the Last Supper and the instituting of communion, what is your reflection on this passage? How should we approach communion each time we gather together?

Next Week's Sermon Title: Crucifixion