

## Sunday February 11, 2024 | The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is such a unique thing for us to celebrate together as a body. God did not want us to forget as believers what Jesus has accomplished and so He asked us to remember Jesus' body and His blood. We are to proclaim His death until He returns.

### Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

(26) Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "**Take, eat; this is My body.**"

(27) And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,

(28) for **this is My blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

(29) I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

As Jesus takes the bread and the cup, He is instructing the disciples and teaching them about what He is going to accomplish on the cross. The bread is pointing them to the perfect life He has lived in His body. He was always in obedience to the Father. His perfect sinless life let Him offer up His blood. **The cup is not possible, not accepted, if it was not for the bread.**

Notice in verse 28 what Jesus says about His blood. That it is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness means to "**free from an obligation, guilt, or punishment, pardon, cancellation**" but this is not the first definition of the word. The Greek word also carries the idea of "**freeing and liberating from something that confines, release from bondage.**" This is how it is used when Jesus reads from Isaiah.

### Luke 4:18-19 NAS95

(18) "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM **RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES**, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,

(19) TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

This word forgiveness means to release a captive from the imprisonment and bondage that they are in. We are coming together as believers to remember the death of Jesus and **the release that it secured**. For us to understand how incredible this is we need to keep in mind how we became imprisoned and put in bondage in the first place.

**Humanity was not originally created as a captive in prison, we put ourselves there.**

When God originally created us, we were free.

### Genesis 2:7-9 ESV

(7) then the LORD God formed the man **of dust from the ground** and breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.**

(8) And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

(9) And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

God formed us out of the dust. He reached down and breathed life into us. He created an amazing garden for us to walk in and be in fellowship with Him. **This is what humanity should have enjoyed for all eternity.** We had access to the tree of life. We could experience true life in perfect fellowship with our amazing creator. God wanted to lead us and show us how to walk with Him.

### Genesis 2:15-17 ESV

(15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it and keep it.**

(16) And the LORD God **commanded the man**, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

(17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**

God has always had a purpose for humanity. **Adam is perfect and in need of God's direction for His life.** God wanted Adam to tend to the creation, to work the ground, to care and protect what He had created. There was one tree humanity was not to eat from. God was asking Adam to enjoy His presence and walk in obedience to His will. To trust that God knew what was best. To trust in His leadership. When God gave this command, it would have been the first time Adam had processed the concept of death. **Everything He knew up to this point was life, fellowship, and freedom. Disobedience would mean death, separation, and bondage.**

### Genesis 3:1-4 ESV

(1) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?**"

(2) And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

(3) but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, **neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'**"

(4) But the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.**

The fall started with questioning God. Satan tries to convince Eve **that walking with God is restrictive and ridiculous.** He wants her to believe that freedom is found elsewhere.

The deception is starting as Eve responds that they cannot even touch it. Satan still uses these lies today. It worked back then and it still works. **He tries to convince us that satisfaction, contentment and freedom are found outside of God's plan and purpose for us.** As we walk in this disobedience, we quickly find out that it was all a lie. The freedom that was promised is in fact death and bondage.

#### **Genesis 3:9-10 ESV**

(9) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, **"Where are you?"**

(10) And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and **I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.**"

Look at the new emotions Adam is feeling after disobeying God. He is afraid and does not want to turn to God. He feels shame and wants to solve his new problem on his own. Instead of walking in freedom he is now hiding from God. **The moment Adam and Eve disobeyed God they spiritually died; they were now in bondage to the sin nature.** God had promised back in verse 17 that they day they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they would die. Death became a new reality. We see God's tremendous grace in seeking out Adam and Eve, He called out to them. He explained the curses, the consequences of their sin, and then God does something amazing.

#### **Genesis 3:21-24 ESV**

(21) **And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.**

Adam and eve spiritually died that day but they did not physically die. God instead took an animal, and killed it. When they sinned, **something had to physically die that day.**

#### **Hebrews 9:22 ESV**

(22) Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**

God took the skin of that slain animal and clothed them in it. He clothed them in the sacrificial death. Adam and Eve were able to keep living because God provided another to die. **They were able to walk out of the garden but they were no longer free.** They were spiritually dead and in bondage to sin. The death of the animal was not a permanent solution. It was simply a place holder. A perfect sacrifice was needed.

#### **Romans 3:24-25 NLT**

(24) Yet God, **in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight.** He did this through Christ Jesus when **He freed us** from the penalty for our sins.

(25) For God presented **Jesus as the sacrifice for sin.** **People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood.** This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for sin. From the first animal that God sacrificed in the garden all the way through the Old Testament and the countless sacrifices it all pointed to Jesus. He is the sacrifice for sin. We are made right with God, declared righteous because **He offered His perfect blood that came from an obedient righteous body**. His death provided us freedom.

#### **Romans 6:6-12 ESV**

(6) We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, **so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin**.

(7) **For one who has died has been set free from sin**.

We are given life because He died. His death defeated the hold sin had on us. Our salvation is not found in what we can do to earn God's approval. We were dead and enslaved to sin. We are saved by grace and given new life because He was willing to die. It cost Jesus everything. **Grace is free because the price was paid in full**. By its very definition we cannot contribute to the free gift of grace.

#### **Romans 4:3-5 ESV**

(3) For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed God**, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

(4) Now to the one **who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due**.

(5) And to the one who does not work but **believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness**,

When we work, we expect to be paid for what we have done. Our paycheck is not a gift, or reward but what we are owed for what we have done. **If Grace can be earned, then it is not a gift. But if the price is not paid then grace cannot be offered**. Abraham cannot contribute to His salvation or He would be due something. We are righteous and set free from sin because we trust in what Jesus has accomplished. We are believing in Him. We had wages waiting for us, as Adam and Eve walked out of the garden, they had earned something, death, and enslavement to sin.

#### **Romans 6:23 ESV**

(23) For the **wages** of sin is **death**, but the **free gift** of God **is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What we have earned is death and salvation is by grace and is free. We are not trying to earn or add to salvation. There is no way we can. The longer we try the more frustrated and defeated we become. Jesus has freed us from our bondage in sin, we just accept the free gift. When we do that, we are given the amazing opportunity to walk in freedom.

**Galatians 5:1 ESV**

(1) For **freedom Christ has set us free**; stand firm therefore, and **do not submit again to a yoke of slavery**.

We are proclaiming the death of Jesus today. We are remembering His perfect sacrifice. **We should not insult Him by trying to add to what He has accomplished. Likewise, we should not take for granted the freedom He secured for us.** It cost Jesus His life to free us, let us not willingly submit to the bondage of slavery again. We can confess our sin and walk fresh with Him, because He has set us free.

**We believe in Open communion-** If you are a believer here today you are welcome to take communion with us.

**If you are not a believer**, meaning you have never trusted in Jesus for your salvation, this is not for you. Please believe in Him.

We are going to have a time of reflection

Take this time to confess any sins God convicts you of. He paid for our sin and set us free, but we do not always live like we are free. **This is why we need to confess our sins and walk fresh with Him.**

His body and His blood, secured our redemption. Take time to mediate on the body and blood and how it has set us free. It is not about us, but about what He did. We do this in remembrance of Him.

After the time of reflection, I will lead us as will all partake of the elements together.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-24 ESV**

(23) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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."**

**The Bread Represents the Body-** It speaks of who Jesus Is- Fully God, Fully man  
**Pray- Eat the Bread**

**1 Corinthians 11:25-26 ESV**

(25) In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**"

**The Cup represents the Blood-** His blood paid the penalty for our sin  
**Pray- Drink the Cup**

**1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV**

(26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

**Revelation 22:2-5 ESV**

(2) through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, **the tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

(3) No longer will there be anything accursed, but **the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him.**

(4) They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

(5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, **for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.**