

Sermon Title: "Observing the Lord's Supper"

Sermon by Rev. Tom Harrington

Week of April 17, 2011

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker

Big Idea: The Lord's Supper reminds us of what Jesus did and the relationship he desires to have with us.

Sermon Text:

Matthew 26:26-30 (New International Version)

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ 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 from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Learning more about the lesson

Man has erected many memorials and monuments to remember great men and events—

The Pyramids, Statue of Liberty, Washington Monument, Lincoln Monument. God has also left us with memorials as tokens of important events and covenants—rainbow (Genesis 9:11-17), pot of manna (Exodus 16:32-34), stones from Jordan River (Joshua 4:1-9), Passover (Exodus 12:1-14). The Lord's Supper is the world's greatest memorial commemorating the world's greatest event (1 Corinthians 11:26).

The Lord's Supper is a church ceremony using bread and the fruit of the vine to symbolize our spiritual participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ, remembering His death and hoping for His soon return.

Throughout the Bible, we see examples of the sharing of meals as important part of maintaining a strong relationship with God. In Genesis 2:8-9, God made food for Adam and Eve and had fellowship with them. The sacrificial system in the Law of Moses kept the thanksgiving meal theme as seen in Leviticus 7:15. Jesus ate food while on the earth even after His resurrection (John 21:15). Furthermore, the Lord's Supper involves food and drink and was established during the Passover meal, a memorial meal rooted symbolically in the Jewish people's experience of captivity and Exodus from Egypt. Therefore we look to the truths of the Lord's Supper as a spiritual fellowship meal with deep meaning.

1. How would you have felt if you were with Jesus at this meal?
2. Why did Jesus give the disciples bread "while they were eating?" Was he worried there was not enough food?
3. Reread Verse 28. What purpose did Jesus explain was fulfilled in the blood of the covenant? Read Hebrews 2:17 and Leviticus 17:11.

4. When we celebrate communion at church together, what should we be thinking about?

5. Why do we need a memorial to remind us of Christ's death?

Prayer Requests and Praises:

Dear Lord,
Pray, asking God to help us remember what Jesus did for us, on the cross and through his resurrection. Pray that when we are in church during communion next time, we would take time to recognize what each symbol means and remember what Jesus did. Praise Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins, so that we could trust in Him and live with God forever.

Taking it Home

In your life, how are you or could you continue to remember the Lord's death until His return? Write your thoughts, below:

Investing and inviting spiritual seekers to consider Christ this Easter:

Identify someone you would like to have a spiritual discussion with:

Share something special with a friend or family member to remember you by:
