

CB - 7/3/66

## "IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"

Luke 22:19

Intro: Since this is Communion Sunday I would like to ask you to consider Luke's account of the beginning of this supper, and why we are to observe it.

This event is given only in Mt., Mr., & Luke. Luke, however, is the only one who uses this statement, "This do in remembrance of me."

He is the only Gospel writer. But we do find this expression again in the Apostle Paul's account in 1 Cor. 11:24,25. (This lends additional proof to the idea that Luke records information which he got primarily from Paul.)

So we are to observe the Lord's Supper as a memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BUT WHAT SPECIFICALLY ARE WE TO REMEMBER?

It is interesting, in this connection, to see the similarity between Luke's and Paul's accounts. There are four things ~~that~~ Jesus Christ did symbolically which are stressed in both accounts:

Luke

- (1) And he took bread
- (2) And gave thanks
- (3) And brake it
- (4) And gave unto them

Paul

That the Lord Jesus  
the night... took bread  
and when He had  
given thanks  
He broke it  
And said, Take, eat.

We recognize that the bread had symbolic meaning, "This is my body." And we know, too, that the cup had symbolic meaning, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." But our Lord's actions in connection with these were also full of significance which we must not fail to recognize.

Let us consider them.

### I. "And He took bread."

The bread represented His body. And the bread had been prepared for Him. So here we see Him in symbol receiving that which had been prepared for Him.

Heb. 10:4-10 gives us the truth.

Here the inadequacy of the OT sacrifices is brought before us. Even they were typical and temporary. They required something greater which would render them unnecessary. So GOD THE FATHER PREPARED A BODY, A HUMAN BODY FOR HIS SON. TAKING IT ~~MEANT~~ ~~DEATH~~ WAS THE FATHER'S WILL FOR THE SON, BUT TAKING IT MEANT DEATH — NOT JUST ORDINARY DEATH, BUT DEATH AS A SACRIFICE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

So, in taking the bread, Jesus Christ is picturing what He did before the foundation of the world, what He experienced when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary — His acceptance of and submission to the will of His Father for the salvation of men.

## II. "and gave thanks."

No record is given here of what Jesus Christ said. Neither do any of the other NT writers tell us the words of His prayer. Therefore, the thing we are to remember is not what He said, but what He did — He gave thanks!

When Mt records the feeding of the 4,000, he tells us that "He (Jesus) took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks." Cf. Mt. 15:36. No words, just what He did. HE GAVE THANKS.

Mark does the same! "And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks" (Mk. 8:6). No words, just what He did.  
HE GAVE THANKS.

Both Mt + Mk tell us that Jesus did this same thing at the last supper (Mt. 26:27; Mk. 14:23).

John tells us about the feeding of the 5,000 and records, "And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples..." (Jn. 6:11). Again, not what He said, but what He did.

See also John 6:23,

"(Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)"

There is one instance recorded only by Mt & Luke when Jesus Christ gave thanks and we are told what He said. Cf. Luke 10:21, 22. (See also Mt. 11:25-27.)

Do these verses help us to understand what our Lord was doing?

Can we not see two things here?

First, that Jesus Christ was thanking God for that which God was providing. Salvation is of the Lord. It would never have been possible if God had not made the provision.

Secondly, Jesus Christ is expressing His complete agreement with the Father that God's way of salvation was not only the best way; it was the only way!

He was thanking the Father, not for what He would have to experience, but for what He would accomplish for men.

III. "and brake it."

Whereas Luke ~~says~~ later in the verse, "This is my body which is given for you," Paul ~~saying~~, "This is my body which is broken for you" (1 cor. 11:24). His body was broken in death.

But the symbol here develops from Jesus Christ Himself doing the breaking.

Cf. John 10:18, "no man taketh my life

"no man taketh 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."

Cf. also Jn. 19:10, where Pilate said,  
"Knowest thou not that I have power  
to crucify thee, and have power to  
release thee?"

No, he didn't!

Isaiah says, "He poured out his  
soul unto death" (Isa. 53:12)!

And Paul in Phil 2:5-11, "... who  
being in the form ... made himself  
of no reputation, took upon himself  
the likeness of men ... and humbled  
himself, being obedient unto death  
even the death of the cross."

Just as Jesus Christ broke the  
bread, so He laid down His own life.  
There was not a moment during all  
of His disgraceful trial and shameful  
death but what He was in absolute  
control of the whole situation.

What majesty, and yet what love!

#### IV. "And gave unto them".

What is the significance here?  
Simply this. Not only does salvation  
originate with God, and is it provided  
by God, but it is distributed to men  
by Him.

Cf. Jn. 10:27, 28,

"My sheep hear my voice, and I  
know them, and they follow me:  
and I give unto them eternal life,  
and they shall never perish, ..."

Cf. Jn. 6:27,

"Labour not for that meat which  
perisheth, but for that meat which  
endureth unto everlasting life,

which the Son of man shall give unto you, for Him hath God the Father sealed."

Cf. Rom. 6:23, "For the wages..."

Cf. 1 Jn. 5:11, "and this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."

We do not give eternal life to men. We can tell others about Him, but just as He gave the bread to His disciples, so He has never relinquished the right of giving life to men.

Concl: So, from all that we have pictured in this memorial supper, the things we have have been asked to remember remind us that our salvation from start to finish is from God.

He planned it.

Jesus Christ fully concurred in it.

Our Lord supervised it to His very death.

Now He sacredly bestows it upon every man.

WHAT TREMENDOUS TRUTHS SHOULD FILL OUR HEARTS AS WE COME TO THE TABLE THIS MORNING "IN REMEMBRANCE OF" H.M!