

"IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"

Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Intro: The specific word, "remembrance," which is used in both of these passages is only elsewhere in Heb. 10:3 where we read,

But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance of sins again made of sins every year. The NIV translates it, "But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins."

The word means to remember something or someone again. In the case of the Lord's Supper, we have Someone to remember again and again and again, as often as we observe it. In fact, what the Lord did and said about this Supper on that night was so important that Paul, who was not there, was not taught it by Peter, or John, or Matthew, or Luke, or John Mark, but he received it directly from the Lord. We learn that from 1 Cor. 11:23. It was not that the others could not have accurately related that even to Paul, but the Lord sought to emphasize how important it was by telling Paul Himself. We feel that way about an important message that we want to get to someone else; we will tell them ourselves rather than depend upon someone else to do it.

So verse 23 alone ought to tell us how important this Supper is to our Lord.

The Lord did not speak to Paul about the place, but He did relate it to the time when these things took place: It was "the same night in which he was betrayed."

Then the Lord told Paul:

- 1) What the Lord did.
- 2) What the Lord said.

But the sum total of what took place that night is the way that the Lord wants us to remember Him again, and again, and again, as often as we observe this Supper.

It is interesting to me that the Lord did not choose what the disciples saw as the Lord was dying on the Cross. That is portrayed for us in the Gospels and in OT passages like Psa. 22 and Isa. 53, but He did not choose the actual events of the Cross. Instead, it was what He did and what He said after He had observed the Passover with them, introducing a Memorial Supper which they had never observed before. It is in these elements that we have symbolically the way the Lord wants us to remember Him.

Let me briefly point out the main things that we are to remember.

Obviously we can see that we are to:

I. REMEMBER HIS HUMANITY.

We see this in the fact that He took bread which represented His Body, and then took the fruit of the vine which represented His Blood. Our Lord had no body and He had no blood until He was born of the Virgin Mary.

His humanity represents to us His humiliation. Perhaps no passage is clearer on this point than Phil. 2:5-8. (Read.)

The Creator came to the earth in the form of a creature. This was necessary if He were to provide a sacrifice for human beings. None of us can fully appreciate the humiliation that this was to our Lord. Many never recognized Him as being any more than a man. He was subjected to all kinds of indignities while He was on earth, the last and worst of which was His shameful death on the Cross.

So the Lord wants us to remember Who He is, and what He became, **for us!** That is even indicated in the way Paul spoke of our Lord in this passage. Please notice that he called Him "the Lord Jesus"--"Lord," speaking of His Deity; "Jesus," His human Name, and speaking of His humanity.

Therefore, tonight we come to the Lord's table, you are not to be thinking about me, nor about the person next to you, nor about the men who will be serving you in just a moment, and certainly not what you are going to do after this service is over, nor what you are going to be doing tomorrow. This is a memorial service in which we are to be thinking about the Lord Jesus--no one else, and nothing else!

II. REMEMBER WHAT HE DID.

This Supper did not originate with the disciples. It was the Lord Who took the bread, and then it was the Lord who took the cup. The disciples did not ask Him to do it, and they certainly did not force Him to do it. They had no idea what He was going to do. He did it voluntarily.

He accepted His mission from the Father. It was not because His enemies cornered Him, and then killed Him. Earlier the Lord Jesus had told them,

I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

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.

And when it came time to distribute the bread to them, He

broke it, which pictured that He was the One Who willing gave Himself in death.

He took not only the bread, but He took also the cup, emblems of His body and of His blood. He had spoken to them about His body, His flesh, and His blood before. We have His words in John 6:53-56 where it is recorded that He said,

Verily, verily I say unto you,  
Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man,  
and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.  
Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood,  
hath eternal life;  
and I will raise him up at the last day.  
For my flesh is meat indeed,  
and my blood is drink indeed.  
He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood,  
dwelleth in me, and I in him.

To eat the Lord's flesh and to drink His blood is figurative language which describes what we are doing when we believe in the Lord. We are expressing our faith in the Son of God Who became a Man, believing that the sacrifice which He offered of His body and blood was completely sufficient for our salvation.

But our Lord's words indicate another thing, and this is why we observe the Lord's Supper again and again. Feeding upon Christ did not stop when we were first saved. We continue to feed upon Him, to learn of Him, to trust Him, and to be strengthened by Him, just as we are strengthened physically by the food which we eat.

Therefore, you can see the Lord's Supper is only for the Lord's people, and when we partake of it we are testifying that we are depending upon Christ alone for our salvation, and also that we are being nourished spiritually every day as we continue to feed upon Him.

But now let us turn to what the Lord said.

### III. REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID.

He did not say a great deal. Sometimes the most potent and memorable remarks are the briefest.

In the first place He did not make observing this Supper optional. He said, "Take, eat." In Matthew's account (26:27) we are told that the Lord said with respect to the cup, "Drink ye all of it." The meaning is, All of you, drink it. So the child of God who does not observe the Lord's Supper is displeasing the Lord. It is disobedience.

He spoke of the bread as representing His body, and He spoke of the cup as representing His blood, but beyond that the words "for you" and "of me" sum up what He wanted to convey to His disciples. He said, "This is my body, which is broken **for you:** this do in remembrance **of me.**"

His death was "for us"; the Lord Supper was, as He said, "In remembrance **of me.**"

But notice one other thing that He said: "This blood is the new testament," or new covenant, "in my blood." The disciples probably did not understand that night that by our Lord's death the old covenant was no longer in effect, the veil in the Temple would be torn from top to bottom, animal sacrifices would no longer necessary, and the Levitical priesthood would be replaced by the Melchizedek priesthood of our Lord Jesus Christ. All of those old sacrifices pointed ahead to this one sacrifice of Christ, and by our Lord's one death he would accomplish what those sacrifices could never do.

We need to remember all of this.

But there is a final thing that we need to remember.

#### IV. REMEMBER WHAT WE ARE DOING.

If you have a red letter edition of the Bible, you may, or may not, have 1 Cor. 11:26 in red. There is some question as to whether or not the Lord said this on that Passover Night, or that these were words which the Lord told Paul to add when he wrote this account.

How often we are to observe the Lord's Supper, we are not told. But when we do, we are told that we are showing "the Lord's death till he come."

What does it mean to show His death?

It means that we are saying something. The word is one of the NT words for teaching or preaching. We are proclaiming a message. We are declaring the greatest truths in the Word of God. Every Lord's Supper is a Gospel preaching service. Every Lord's Supper is to be Christ-honoring and Christ-exalting. In every Lord's Supper the church is brought back to the basics of our faith: We are sinners saved by the grace of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior! May the Lord make our time together tonight just that, and nothing else, or nothing less.

And how long will we do this? "Till He come." We are not

only declaring that we believe that Jesus Christ came the first time to provide salvation for us, but we are declaring that we believe our salvation is going to be completed when He comes again to take us to be with Him in heaven.

Concl: As these elements, the bread and the cup, are taken by us tonight, may it truly be, as the Lord said, "In remembrance of Me." And the tone that is set for us in a service like this, should characterize all of our services, and all of our times together. Let us pray that Christ may be so much in our remembrance all of the time that people will go away from our meetings thinking of Him Who gave His life voluntarily for us that we might be forgiven of our sins, and Who is coming again to bring His work in us to its final completion.