

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LORD
Luke 22:14-20

Intro: Twice a month we observe the Lord's Supper. The Scriptures do not say how often we should remember the Lord in this way. Paul was directed by the Spirit of God to say simply, For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come (1 Cor. 11:26).

Some believers observe it every week. Some, once a month. Others, once a quarter. And there must be others who follow other practices. But, whatever the frequency, it is doubtful if there is any more sacred time that the people of God have than this!

I have been concerned that we have given so little thought to this in past months, and so I want to start something tonight which I may continue for the rest of my ministry with you-- whether that is a long time or a short time (the Lord knows). Especially during our Sunday evening observances of the Lord's Supper, I want to devote the message to some aspect of the death of Christ. Again, let me remind you that Paul said of this time of communion that "ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." Every time we observe this Supper it is to remember, and to proclaim, "the Lord's death."

— Tonight I want to take Luke's account and think specifically about what happened at the first observance of the Lord's Supper. Only in Luke, and later in 1 Corinthians, do we have the word, "remembrance," used. Paul could have learned about this from Luke. But even Luke had to learn about it from someone else because neither Paul nor Luke was present when the Lord instituted the Supper. But they both used this word, "remembrance." This is a Supper in which we are to remember the Lord.

The word itself suggests that:

- 1) This Supper alone is sufficient. We do not need images nor pictures nor anything else. This alone is enough. Anything else would be adding to what the Lord did on that occasion.
- 2) We are to remember the Lord again and again.
When we do, we do what we did the last time, and what we will do the next time. People love variety, but the uniqueness of this Supper is that it is the same thing over and over, for the same purpose, to remember the Lord!
- 3) We are to do it obediently. This is not something which was added by some church council later; this was commanded by the Lord. Any Christian who does not observe the Lord's Supper is to that extent being disobedient to the Lord.
- 4) We are to do it affectionately. This is One we must never forget, and He is the One who has chosen how we should remember Him.
- 5) We must do it personally. No one else can do it for us.

6) We must do it Scripturally.

One thing that must impress anyone who reads this passage is the simplicity of the Supper. And, as I have said, it is not to be made complicated. It is simple like the Gospel which it represents, and it must stay that way.

So there is much in that word, "remembrance."

But what else did the Lord have in mind when He said, "This do in remembrance of Me"?

Obviously He meant that as often as we observe this Supper our thoughts should be directed to Him and to what He did for our salvation. And this is a subject which can never be exhausted. It is a subject which takes us to every part of the Word of God because there is no subject which is more prominent in all of Scripture. Thus, if we were to observe the Lord's Supper every week, we could always have some fresh aspect of His death to consider, or we could simply review (as the word "remembrance" indicates) what the Lord did as our Saviour.

Tonight I want us to look briefly at what took place in that "upper room" (Luke 22:12). At this time, what did the Lord's words, "in remembrance of me," mean?

They had to mean:

- 1) Remember Who I am.
- 2) Remember what I did.
- 3) Remember what I said.
- 4) Remember that that was all.

I. REMEMBER WHO HE IS.

The Lord's Supper has become a ritual in many churches, and consequently there are people who go through the motions of remembering the Lord, but who do not believe that He was and still is the Lord.

The term that the Lord used was "the Son of man" (Luke 22:22).

Perhaps we can study this term more in detail at another time, but let me just say for the present that this was a Messianic title. It was a title used by the Lord for Himself, and we have no evidence that He was ever called this by any other than Himself.

Benjamin Warfield, one of the greatest theologians that the United States has ever had, once wrote this about this title:

Certainly the Messianic conception represented as expressed by Jesus through His constant employment of the title 'Son of Man' of Himself, is that of a

supermundane Being entering the sphere of earthly life upon a high and beneficent mission, upon the accomplishment of which He returns to the heavenly sphere, whence He shall once more come back to earth, now, however, nor in humiliation, but in His appropriate majesty, to gather up the fruits of His work and consummate all things (The Lord of Glory, p. 135).

But how does anyone come to realize Who Jesus Christ really is? Cf. Matt. 16:13-17.

So we remember Him as the Man, Christ Jesus, the Messiah, the eternal Son of God! If we miss this, there is no purpose at all in the Supper.

II. REMEMBER WHAT HE DID.

Look at Luke 22:19a. Every part of it is significant.

Remember that the bread represents His body.

A. "He took bread."

This pictures His submission to the Father's will, and His acceptance of the body that was prepared for Him. Cf. Heb. 10:5-10.

B. He "gave thanks."

Who knows what He said? It is not recorded, but obviously it had to do with His obedience to the Father's will. He did not die reluctantly, but thankfully.

C. He broke the bread.

This pictures His death, and the act represents the truth expressed in John 10:17, 18.

D. He "gave" it to the Apostles.

Here we see the sovereignty of our Lord in dispensing salvation to whomsoever He will. Cf. John 10:27, 28.

And in giving it to them, He gave the elements to them for them to eat and to drink. Cf. John 6:53-58.

III. REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID.

There were two statements.

A. "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Note the suggestion here of particular redemption. There is no doubt but that the whole world of men could have been saved by the one death of Christ, but that was evidently not our Lord's purpose.

— The same point is made in the second statement.

B. "This cup is the new testament (or covenant) in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:20).

What is a covenant?

It is an agreement. Here was an agreement by God, to save all who would eat of the Lord's flesh and drink His blood, by faith. What a picture of our salvation!

IV. REMEMBER THAT THIS WAS ALL!

It is a picture of the Lord giving and of man receiving. It was an act of grace on our Lord's part to provide for those of His choosing what no man could ever provide for himself.

Concl: Perhaps there is too much here for us to digest it all in one message. But let us come back to the Gospel records again and again to remember what our Lord wants us to remember, and then to worship Him Who provided fully for our salvation from the eternal consequences of our sins.

— He, and He alone, is our Saviour!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement! can it be?
Hallulujah! what a Saviour!