



Lesson 13

A Closer Look at Communion

WHERE IS COMMUNION MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE?

HE TOOK SOME BREAD AND GAVE THANKS TO GOD FOR IT. THEN HE BROKE IT IN PIECES AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES SAYING, “THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU. DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME.” AFTER SUPPER HE TOOK ANOTHER CUP OF WINE AND SAID, “THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE—AN AGREEMENT CONFIRMED WITH MY BLOOD, WHICH IS POURED OUT AS A SACRIFICE FOR YOU.”

LUKE 22:19-20 (NLT)

AS THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK SOME BREAD AND BLESSED IT. THEN HE BROKE IT IN PIECES AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES, SAYING “TAKE THIS AND EAT IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY.” AND HE TOOK A CUP OF WINE AND GAVE THANKS TO GOD FOR IT. HE GAVE IT TO THEM AND SAID, “EACH OF YOU DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD, WHICH CONFIRMS THE COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. IT IS POURED OUT AS A SACRIFICE TO FORGIVE THE SINS OF MANY. MARK MY WORDS— I WILL NOT DRINK WINE AGAIN UNTIL THE DAY I DRINK IT NEW WITH YOU IN MY FATHER’S KINGDOM.”

MATTHEW 26:26-29 (NLT)

AS THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK SOME BREAD AND BLESSED IT. THEN HE BROKE IT IN PIECES AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES, SAYING, “TAKE IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY.” AND HE TOOK A CUP OF WINE AND GAVE THANKS TO GOD FOR IT. HE GAVE IT TO THEM, AND THEY ALL DRANK FROM IT. AND HE SAID TO THEM, “THIS IS MY BLOOD, WHICH CONFIRMS THE COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. IT IS POURED OUT AS A SACRIFICE FOR MANY. I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WILL NOT DRINK WINE AGAIN UNTIL THE DAY I DRINK IT NEW IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.” MARK 14:22-25 (NLT)

SO JESUS SAID AGAIN, “I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, UNLESS YOU EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YOU CANNOT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE WITHIN YOU. BUT ANYONE WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE, AND I WILL RAISE THAT PERSON AT THE LAST DAY. FOR MY FLESH IS TRUE FOOD, AND MY BLOOD IS TRUE DRINK. ANYONE WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD REMAINS IN ME, AND I IN HIM. I LIVE BECAUSE OF THE LIVING FATHER WHO SENT ME; IN THE SAME WAY, ANYONE WHO FEEDS ON ME WILL LIVE BECAUSE OF ME.”

JOHN 6:53-58 (NLT)

FOR I PASS ON TO YOU WHAT I RECEIVED FROM THE LORD HIMSELF. ON THE NIGHT WHEN HE WAS BETRAYED, THE LORD JESUS TOOK SOME BREAD AND GAVE THANKS TO GOD FOR IT. THEN HE BROKE IT IN PIECES AND SAID, “THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU. DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME.” IN THE SAME WAY, HE TOOK THE CUP OF WINE AFTER SUPPER, SAYING, “THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE- AN AGREEMENT CONFIRMED WITH MY BLOOD. DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT.” FOR EVERY TIME YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP, YOU ARE ANNOUNCING THE LORD’S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES AGAIN. SO ANYONE WHO EATS THIS BREAD OR DRINKS THIS CUP OF THE LORD UNWORTHILY IS GUILTY OF SINNING AGAINST THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD. THAT IS WHY YOU SHOULD EXAMINE YOURSELF BEFORE EATING THE BREAD AND DRINKING THE CUP. FOR IF YOU EAT THE BREAD OR DRINK THE CUP WITHOUT HONORING THE BODY OF CHRIST, YOU ARE EATING AND DRINKING GOD’S JUDGEMENT UPON YOURSELF. THAT IS WHY SO MANY OF YOU ARE WEAK AND SICK AND SOME HAVE EVEN DIED.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-30 (NLT)

In all of the above scriptures, Jesus is introducing communion to the disciples during their Passover feast. The correlation that Jesus makes between the Passover lamb and Himself would not have been lost on His Jewish audience. Just before their exodus from Egypt, the Jewish people were instructed to slaughter the unblemished lamb, eat of its flesh, and cover their door posts with its blood in order that they would be “passed over” by the Angel of death and granted freedom from their slavery to the Egyptians. Many hundreds of years later, Jesus shared His last meal with the disciples in the Passover setting. He boldly proclaimed that He was the living reality of the Passover sacrificial lamb, that His body would be broken for them, and that His blood would be spilled for them. Jesus’ sacrifice was done in order that humanity would be forgiven of their sins, made clean, and thereby be given direct access to the presence of God the Father...this is what Jesus meant by “the new covenant”

COMMUNION IS TAUGHT THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT

It is mentioned in all 4 Gospels.

Paul gives the most detailed account of communion in 1 Corinthians, which was imparted to him by Jesus.

This sacrament is important to the Lord! We should study it to understand why. There is way more to it than mere religious ceremony.

WHAT DID JESUS DO AS HE MODELED COMMUNION TO HIS DISCIPLES?

HE SHOWED GRATITUDE. HE GAVE THANKS.

Even though He knew for certain that Judas would betray Him, that His own people would betray Him, and that He would suffer terrible torture and certain death on the cross, He gave thanks to God and broke the bread- a symbol of His body that would be broken. And, He also gave thanks for the wine- a symbol of His blood that would be poured out unto death.

Jesus does not command us to do things that He is not willing to do as well. He does not tell us to be thankful even in the most difficult circumstances, and then not model it Himself.

HE TOLD THEM TO REMEMBER HIM.

Our Lord knew that we would forget. That we would get side-tracked by life and all its distractions. That the enemy would do his best to keep us wrapped up in worldly desires, in order that we would lose sight of our most powerful reality: Jesus' death on the cross that paid the ransom for all humanity. His blood was shed as THE ONE AND ONLY sacrifice needed for mankind to be brought back into relationship with the Father.

Remembrance is a principle in scripture.

God gives Moses instructions for the Israelites to remember how He delivered them from Pharaoh and brought them through the wilderness. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

God instructs Joshua to build a memorial at the Jordan River. This would serve as a reminder of how He parted the waters and allowed the Israelites to cross on dry land into the Promised Land. (Joshua 4:1-8)

Jewish Feasts. (Exodus 12:14, Leviticus 23:4)

HE TELLS HIS DISCIPLES TO "ANNOUNCE THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES AGAIN."

By publicly declaring Jesus' death, we are releasing into the atmosphere the most powerful testimony that exists.

THEY TRIUMPHED OVER HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY... REVELATION 12:11 (NIV)

JESUS CONFIRMS THE NEW COVENANT.

Under the New Covenant we are given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We have direct access to God, the Father. (Ephesians 3:12)

We are forgiven once and for all. (Hebrews 10:16-18)

ACCESS HEALING POWER THROUGH COMMUNION.

Jesus died for our sins, and our sickness. When He died on the cross, He carried it all with Him- sin, disease, addiction... every dark thing the enemy uses to destroy our lives- and He paid the eternal sacrifice for it all. **Divine health is our birthright!**

HE WAS DESPISED AND REJECTED- A MAN OF SORROWS, ACQUAINTED WITH DEEPEST GRIEF. WE TURNED OUR BACKS ON HIM AND LOOKED THE OTHER WAY. HE WAS DESPISED, AND WE DID NOT CARE. YET IT WAS OUR SORROWS THAT WEIGHED HIM DOWN. AND WE THOUGHT HIS TROUBLES WERE A PUNISHMENT FROM GOD, A PUNISHMENT FOR HIS OWN SINS! BUT HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR REBELLION, CRUSHED FOR OUR SINS. HE WAS BEATEN SO WE COULD BE WHOLE. HE WAS WHIPPED SO WE COULD BE HEALED.
ISAIAH 53:3-5 (NLT)

Hebrew word for grief is choliy, which means sickness, disease, and grief.

Hebrew word for heal is rapha, which means to cure, repair, thoroughly make whole.

Scriptural examples of rapha as it relates to healing sickness and disease:

...IF YOU WILL LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE VOICE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN HIS SIGHT...THEN I WILL NOT MAKE YOU SUFFER ANY OF THE DISEASES I SENT ON THE EGYPTIANS; FOR I AM THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU.
EXODUS 15:26 (NLT)

HE FORGIVES ALL MY SINS AND HEALS ALL MY DISEASES. PSALM 103:3 (NLT)

When we take Communion and declare total health over our bodies, we are aligning ourselves with what the body of Christ did for us. If we believe what the Bible says, that "by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5), then there has to be something important in the act of symbolically partaking in His body during Communion. His body suffered so that our bodies would not have to. When we take the bread, we are testifying that He is the healer, that we do not have to walk in sickness, that what Jesus did on the cross changed everything.

COMMUNION AS A WEAPON FOR WARFARE.

MAY GOD ARISE, MAY HIS ENEMIES BE SCATTERED; MAY HIS FOES FLEE BEFORE HIM.
PSALM 68:1 (NIV)

When we exalt the Lord- through praise, prayer, communion, delighting in Him- we are defeating the demonic realm.

PRIMARY WEAPONS OF WARFARE:

Name of Jesus

The Word of God

Blood of Jesus

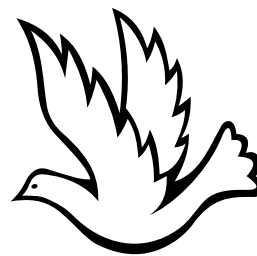
Praise

Keeping our Armor on (Ephesians 6:14-17)

Humility

We utilize the blood of Jesus as a weapon against our enemy when we engage in communion.

Appropriate the blood of Jesus over yourself and your loved ones. By faith, be convinced that the blood of Jesus sets you free. Express that faith by partaking in communion. It is powerful.



CONCLUSION

In John 10:10, Jesus says He has come in order that we may have life, and have it more abundantly. He died on the cross so that mankind could live a life of meaning, purpose, and joy...eternally with Him.

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul tells us that the Lord will accomplish in us infinitely more than we could ask or think, and that He would do this through His mighty power at work in us.

Communion is a vehicle, given to us by Jesus himself, to use in order to access His power and live the abundant life He promised. Learn to honor this sacrament and use it for its intended purpose. Do not water it down as mere ceremony.

Human nature is constantly attempting to create rules outside of a relationship. Communion is not a magic pill, and God is not a vending machine. He does not want us to eat a wafer and drink some grape juice every day so that He will grant our wishes. Communion is about lining ourselves up with Him- spirit, soul, and body. It is an opportunity for us to remember the debt of sin that hung around our necks- too big for us to ever repay on our own- and the way that our Jesus took that debt with Him to the cross so that you and I could “**HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY**” **JOHN 10:10 (NASB)** It's an opportunity for us to come- in all humility and honor- into the presence of the Lord, to praise His name for all that He has done, and to celebrate in union with other believers. Take this tool, given to us by Jesus himself, and use it frequently. You will not remain the same. That is His promise. (Bill Johnson in *The Power of Communion*).