

Lest we forget

Luke 22:7-20

18 Mar 2018, David Yeh

V7 The communion that Jesus conducted was on the Day of Unleavened Bread or the Passover, the day the Jews remember how the angel of death slaughtered the first born sons of the Egyptians. The people of Israel were untouched because on that same night they killed a lamb and sprinkled the blood of the lamb on the doorpost. They ate the lamb together with the bitter herbs and the bread, then they were delivered from Egypt. Because they were in such a hurry to leave they had no time to wait for the bread to rise so it was unleavened – without yeast. On this day the people of Israel celebrated how God protected them from the death of the first-born son and brought them out of slavery in Egypt.

This great historical event that happened to the people of Israel was to be remembered through the generations to come because God had delivered them from the cruel slavery of Egypt into the promised land. Through the Old Testament there were many prophecies of Messiah who would come and save them from the enemy's hand and restore the glory of Israel. But in some parts of prophecy the saviour was described as a lamb to be slaughtered.

Isaiah 53:4-7

This was about Jesus. It was written about 680 years before Jesus came. Jesus came in order to die for us: he was the only person who was born to die.

The Passover represented what was to come - the Lamb of God, Jesus, would come and take the place of people shedding His blood and by his death saving the people from death.

V9-v13 As Jesus was preparing for the Passover he was preparing for his final hour. Can you see the comparison - the Old Testament Passover and now Jesus was living out that in reality.

The Purpose Of The Lord's Supper – V19

1) To Remember the cost he paid

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, 350 Japanese war planes bombed Pearl Harbour. 18 battle ships were sunk or destroyed. 200 airplanes were put out of commission. 3, 581 servicemen were either killed or wounded. Thus America's war cry as she entered World War II was this motto: "Remember Pearl Harbour".

At the Lord's Table today, we too have a war cry and it is: "Remember Jesus Christ."

1. He was Beaten - Luke 22:63-64
2. He Was Scourged - Matt. 27:6; Psa. 129:3
3. He was Spit Upon - Matt. 27:30
4. He was Mocked - Matt. 27:26-29
5. His beard was Plucked Out - Isa. 50:6
6. He was Stripped Naked - Matt. 27:35

7. He was Nailed to the Cross and Crucified - Matt. 27:38; John 20:25

As in the case of the Pearl Harbour attack, where the cost of what happened that day reminded the Americans of their reason and purpose for fighting, so we need to remember the cost Jesus paid for us, and remind ourselves of our reason and purpose for following Him.

2) To Remember his work of salvation

The Lord's Supper is not a memorial service! Memorial services are held for those who are dead. The Lord's Supper is like what Jesus said here, a "time of remembrance." It is a time for us to focus on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a time of reverence, yet at the same time it should be a time of celebration. Above all, it must be a time of worship and of focus upon the person of Jesus, alone. Jesus should be the centre of the Lord's Supper celebration. It is a time when we express our love for Jesus, because it is a way we can say to Jesus, we love you, we remember the way you showed your love to us and what you did for us.

V19. Jesus gave thanks for the bread, for God's provision, the bread that represented his body, the lamb that God has provided for all mankind. God will provide, like God provided a goat for Abraham, the goat that took the place of little boy Isaac, son of Abraham, who was about to be sacrificed.

So when we have communion we are proclaiming his death, not just remembering his death and how sorrowful or pitiful He was. Yes we do need to remember the cost He has paid for us, the pain and suffering he went through. Our salvation didn't come cheap but with great price.

But I don't believe this is all that Jesus wants us to remember Him as.

I don't want people to remember the pain in my last hour of life - tubes and cry of pain. The heroes that sacrificed their life for revolution don't want people just to remember their death but what they have achieved in the revolution. So with Jesus - he doesn't want us just to remain with Him in sorrowful spirit, just remembering his pain and suffering but what his death brought for us - the power of healing, the power of his blood and forgiveness and life.

3) Remember his healing

On the night that He was betrayed, Jesus ate His last supper with His disciples. And knowing what He would accomplish through His sacrifice, He instituted the Holy Communion. I could just imagine those disciples thinking what is Jesus talking about - "this is my body given for you." They had no idea that the breaking of the bread symbolised his body being broken for us.

Besides being born again in Christ, a healthy body and mind are the greatest blessings anyone can have. And the Holy Communion is God's ordained channel of healing and wholeness. Today, when we partake of the bread, we are declaring that Jesus' health and divine life flows in our mortal bodies. The perfect God without any defect bore our sickness in His own body. The curse of sickness in my body was borne by Jesus' body.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

The curse of sickness that we bear in our bodies was laid on Jesus. When we believe that, the power of healing will take place.

4) Remember his forgiveness of sin v20

Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

A. The Blood of New Cleansing

The Bible tells us that "without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin." It takes the shedding of blood for a person to be saved, not just any blood but the blood of Jesus, the only blood that is sinless. Lord Jesus Christ cleanses us. When you are dirty you don't want to clean yourself with dirty water but clean water. Jesus's blood is sinless - totally clean. We were the ones to die for our sins but he took our place.

Illustration of a sheep that saved the carpenter.

This sheep took the blow of death on itself just like Jesus took the sting of death on himself so that our life could be saved.

People of Israel don't eat or drink the blood, they don't eat meat that has blood either, but here they drink the so called "blood of Jesus", the blood not just sprinkled on the door but now inside us. Death can't touch us, we have the sign of life in us.

B. The Blood of the New Covenant

In the Old Testament, the sinner approached God through the blood of a slain animal. Under the new covenant, the one which Jesus inaugurated, men must come to God through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the old time in Middle East people made a covenant with blood and sealed the covenant with blood. It means I will keep this covenant with my life. The New Covenant is that our sin is forgiven and when God sees us, He will see us through Jesus. Jesus guaranteed that with His life. The New Covenant is that He will be with us always, that He has prepared a place for us in heaven.

How Do I Partake Of The Holy Communion?

His loving instruction is that we are to remember Him as we partake of the Holy Communion. Jesus wanted us conscious of how His body was broken for our wholeness, and His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. And whenever we partake it with this in mind, we "proclaim the Lord's death till He comes"

(1 Corinthians 11:26). Before you partake, remember that the Holy Communion is not a ritual to be observed, but a blessing to be received.

The following is a suggestion of how we can partake the communion.

First, hold the bread in your hand and say:

Thank You, Father, for the gift of Your Son. By the stripes that fell on His back, my body is healed from the crown of my head to the very soles of my feet. Every cell, every organ,

every function of my body is healed, restored, and renewed. In Jesus' name, I believe and I receive. [Eat the bread.]

Next, take the cup in your hand and say:

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your precious blood. Your sin-free, disease-free, poverty-free life is in Your blood. And Your shed blood has removed every sin from my life. Through Your blood, I am forgiven of all my sins—past, present and future—and made completely righteous. Today, I celebrate and partake of the inheritance of the righteous, which is preservation, healing, wholeness and provision. Thank You Lord Jesus, for loving me. Amen. [Drink the wine.]

v26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

When we take the bread and the cup we are proclaiming his love and sacrifice, proclaiming his work of salvation, the cleansing of our sin, the power to overcome sin, the power to heal, the eternal life that we have from now on.

PRECIOUS BLOOD

Several years ago in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, George and Vera Bajenksi's lives were changed forever. February 16, 1989. A very normal Thursday morning. The phone rang at 9:15 a.m. "There's been an accident..." It involved their son Ben.

As they approached the intersection of Adelaide and Simcoe Streets near the high school, they could see the flashing lights of the police cars and ambulance units. Vera noticed a photographer and followed the direction of his camera lens to the largest pool of blood she had ever seen.

All she could say was, "George, Ben went home--home to be with his Heavenly Father!" Her first reaction was to jump out of the car, somehow collect the blood and put it back into her son. She said, "That blood, for me, at that moment, became the most precious thing in the world because it was life. It was life-giving blood and it belonged in my son, my only son, the one I loved so much."

The road was dirty and the blood just didn't belong there. George noticed that cars were driving right through the intersection--right through the blood. His heart was smitten. He wanted to cover the blood with his coat and cry, "You will not drive over the blood of my son!"

Then Vera understood for the first time in her life, one of God's greatest and most beautiful truths...why blood? Because it was the strongest language God could have used. It was the most precious thing He could give-- the highest price He could pay.

Through God's amazing love we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19). May we never treat lightly nor trample underfoot the blood of God's Son (Hebrews 10:29).

"Amazing love! How can it be? That thou, My God, shouldst die for me!" (Charles Wesley).