

## Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 Devoted to Remembering the Cross

Today we are in part 4 of our in-depth series called Devoted - which is part of our through the Bible series in the book of Acts

A) Here at CV we believe in teaching verse by verse through books of the Bible.

B) Best way to study God's word - so we are going verse by verse through the book of Acts -

1) Camped out the last several weeks in Chapter 2 - looking at what the early church was devoting themselves to.

C) Six things that we see in our text this morning. - {literally they devoted themselves to

42 And they continued steadfastly {literally they devoted themselves to the apostles' doctrine #1 the word and fellowship, #2 Building community in the breaking of bread, #3 Remembering the Cross and in #4 prayers.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God #5 Worship and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. #6 Evangelism - sharing Jesus

Pray

There were two ordinances that Jesus gave to his church - two things that they were to do as part of their focus.

A) We are doing both today here at CV!

B) The first was to Baptize - Go into all the world preaching the gospel - making disciples - baptizing them in the name.....

C) The 2<sup>nd</sup> was Communion - the Lord's supper - Remembering the Cross of Jesus

D) It was during his last Passover meal on the night before he went to the cross that Jesus instituted the Lord's supper.

E) I want to look at the account of that supper in 1 Corinthians 11 today - as we prepare our hearts to come to the Lord's table - turn there

I was hired to come on staff as the youth Pastor at this church in June of 1985-

A) Church at that time was about 250 adults - Hacienda Drive

B) It was that year - a month later I would meet Denise - at a camp in the mountains.

C) By April of the next year we would be engaged to be married - JULY 0F 1986 married

Lamest proposal ever - No romantic dinner - no ring - no getting down on one Knee

A) simply looked at her and said - Do you want.....

B) One of the reasons I didn't have a ring was well -I was pretty poor -

1) see my Salary here at the church was \$700 a month My rent was \$425 -barely enough money for food to eat.

Gaylord and Marsha Hawaii - gum on the shoe bottom - a Diamond in the gum.

A) These verses before us here in 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 have been described as a diamond in the mud!

B) V.23 gives us the setting - on the night that Jesus would be betrayed - things are about to get very dark

C) But in the darkness - We are given this brilliant illumination of a new thing that God is doing

D) Divide this into two parts

- The Purpose of the Lord's table 1 Cor 11:23-26
- The Preparation for the Lord's table 11:27-34

The Purpose of the Lord's table 1 Cor 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,

“Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” --→

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

**It was not a coincidence that Jesus initiated the Lord’s Supper or communion at the Passover meal.**

A) God instituted the Passover when He delivered His people from their 400 years of bondage in Egypt.

B) The meal celebrated the death angel’s passing over the houses of those whose doorposts were covered with lamb’s blood. -**Explain.....**

C) Throughout her history Israel celebrated this meal in remembrance of the Lord’s supreme deliverance from Egypt to the Promised Land.

D) It is still the holiest of Jewish feasts.

**But on this night Jesus transformed the Passover meal**

A) into the celebration of the infinitely greater deliverance He came to bring, of which the Passover was only a foreshadow

B) The Passover celebrated the temporary, physical deliverance of the Old Covenant.

**C) The Lord’s Supper celebrates the permanent and spiritual deliverance of the New.**

D) It is interesting that they celebrated Passover - once a year -

1) but they were celebrating communion daily.

**Note three things about this celebration**

1<sup>st</sup> the Doctrine

2<sup>nd</sup> the Directive

3<sup>rd</sup> the Duration

**The Doctrine:**

➤ **The bread:** He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you

**The bread that had represented the Exodus now came to represent the body of Jesus the Messiah.**

A) To the Jewish mind the body represented the whole person, not just his physical body.

B) Jesus’ body represents the great mystery of His whole incarnate life,

1) His whole teaching, ministry, and work—all He was and all He did.

C) The word *broken* (as in the KJV of verse 24) does not appear in the best manuscripts-

**That is significant because both Moses in Exodus 12 and Numbers 9 and David in Psalm 34 prophesied of Messiah no broken bones.**

A) On the Cross - because it was Passover - and sabbath was approaching

B) The Roman soldiers sought to speed up the death process -

1) by breaking the legs of the thieves on the cross with Jesus

C) But when they came to Jesus - already dead - his legs were spared - no bones were broken

**D) Although know bones were broken - He was still broken in the sense of his body was thrashed**

**The Beating:**

A) Cat of nine tails - blind folded and punched - crown of thorns

B) Isaiah would say this about his appearance

<sup>14</sup> But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man. Isaiah 52:14 NLT

But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. Isaiah 53:5 CSB

**C) Body was broken - so was his heart - the greatest agony - experiencing separation from his Father.**

1) My God - My God ..... ME?

**D)The Spear in the side - the mixture of Blood and water = ♥**

**Note: Broken or given for You!!!**

A)For you are two of the most beautiful words in all of Scripture.

B)Jesus gave His body, His entire incarnate life, for us who believe in Him. **“I became a man for you; I suffered for you; and I died for you.”**

C)The bread = his body which was given for You!

**The Doctrine:**

➤ **The cup: 25** In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood

A)The cup that had represented the lamb’s blood smeared on the doorposts now came to represent the blood of the Lamb of God,

B)shed for the salvation of the world.

**C)The Old Covenant was ratified repeatedly by the blood of animals offered by men;**

**D)but the New Covenant has been ratified once and for all by the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:28),**

1)which God Himself has offered.

E)So Jesus took the cup and said it is the new covenant in My blood.

**The message of the Old Covenant was Do - follow these commandments and you can be saved.**

A)Problem was no one could consistently keep the commandments - our flesh was too weak.

B)Therefore man was doomed to spend eternity separated from God because of our failure to keep the commandments

C)Paul the apostle would later write in the book of Galatians that **the purpose of the OC - was to show us our need of a savior**

1)School master - that revealed how we all fallen short

**So the message of the OC was Do this and Live! But the message of the NC is DONE! - FINISHED - paid in full**

A)The message of the OC was a work that focused on the outward performance

B)The work of the NC is inward, inside - starts with the heart and then affects us on the outside

<sup>31</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—<sup>32</sup> not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke**, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. Jeremiah 31:31,32

**C)There was a need for a new covenant - because God’s people - his wife -broke the old covenant - 1)Spiritual adultery**

<sup>33</sup> But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Jeremiah 31:33

D)The law would no longer been written on stone tablets -

**1)but it would be written on our hearts - INWARD WORK**

**E)MARKED BY AN INTIMACY - and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

<sup>34</sup>No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” Jeremiah 31:34

**F)Sins forgiven and guilt removed**

**So The Passover celebrated the temporary, physical deliverance of the Old Covenant.**

A)Celebrated every year - and daily and perpetual sacrifices for sin

B)The Lord’s Supper celebrates the permanent and spiritual deliverance of the New.

**C)One sacrifice - the body and blood of Jesus given - ONCE FOR ALL**

**1)GIVEN ONCE AND FOR ALL who believe**

<sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. Ezekiel 36:26,27 NLT

**So first we have the Doctrine of the Lord's Supper - now let's consider the directive**

**A)The directive is given twice - First in V.24 - do this in remembrance of Me.” And again in V.25 This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

**B)For the Hebrew to remember meant much more than simply to bring something to mind, 1)or to merely to recall that it happened.**

**C)To truly remember meant to go back in one's mind and recapture as much of the reality and significance of an event or experience as one possibly can.**

**To remember Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross is to relive with Him the, agony, suffering, and death as much as is humanly possible.**

**A)To reflect upon what he went through for us!**

**B)Became sin - became a curse - experienced separation**

**C)But that means Our sin has been paid for in the cross of Christ, past, present, and future.**

**Why are we commissioned to remember this?**

**A)Because we are so prone to forget - the cross loses its significance**

**B)The early church at the start made this a daily part of their gatherings -**

**1)The Cross is everything to us**

**3rd the Duration** <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim** the Lord's death till He comes.

**A)No frequency is given, but it is a permanent feast.**

**B)It is more than a remembrance for our own sakes; it is also a proclamation for the world's sake.**

**C)It is a testimony to the world that we are not ashamed of our Lord or of His blood,**

**1)Never understood the mindset of the seeker churches**

**Don't want to offend - blood - that is gross!**

**A)Our faith is a bloody faith!**

**B)We sing of the precious blood of Jesus -**

**C)Blood bought - blood related!**

**D)When we partake of it - we are given worth to the importance of the blood!**

**Communion is also a reminder of the Lord's coming again,**

**A)He tells us to proclaim His death by this means until He comes.**

**B)It helps keep us looking forward to the day when we will be with Him.**

**But I say to you, “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.” (Matthew 26:29)**

**C)IN Communion we have the opportunity to realign our hopes to the future Christ is bringing.**

**D)He is coming again - He is the King - and one day he is going to rule -**

**1)Set up his Kingdom that will have no end !**

**E)So that is the purpose of the Lord's supper**

**1)Remember back - and to look forward**

**The Preparation for the Lord's table V.27-34**

<sup>27</sup> Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. <sup>31</sup> For if we would judge ourselves, we

would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

<sup>33</sup> Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. <sup>34</sup> But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

### **An unworthy manner:**

**A) What constitutes an unworthy manner?**

**B) That can happen when this becomes only a ritual to us**

1) Going through the motions - and not giving proper worth to the cross in our hearts

**C) 2<sup>nd</sup> Having bitterness and unforgiveness in our hearts against another.**

1) Forgetting how much we have been forgiven by God

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Living in rebellion against God**

**A) We know that this represents Jesus - dying to pay the price for sin - but we are content to stay in it**

**To come unworthily to the Lord's Table is to become guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

**A) What would you think if you saw someone at the park today or one of your neighbors trampling the flag?**

**B) Would it upset you? Would you say something?**

**C) The Bible says - when we are not giving worth to the cross - especially by living a contradictory lifestyle**

**D) To come unworthily to Communion does not simply dishonor the ceremony;**

**1) It dishonors the One in whose honor it is celebrated.**

### **Warning:**

<sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. <sup>31</sup> For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

<sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

**Judgment is not to condemnation but to chastisement - sick and even died**

**A) The Lord often set a precedence in the beginning of things**

**B) Entering the promise land - battle at Jericho - don't take any spoil - die -**

1) Consecrated and set apart - Achan

**C) See in Acts 5 a couple lies to the Holy Spirit - struck dead**

**D) Highlights the Holiness of God - take this seriously**

**E) That is the point that Jesus is making here - don't take this lightly - take it seriously**

**So the Preparation for the Lord's Supper is EXAMINATION**

**A) Examine our hearts**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalm 139:23-24

**B) Search me oh Lord -**

**C) Ritual or relationship?**

**D) Do I have bitterness - am I refusing to forgive - even though I have been forgiven of so much**

**E) Am I in rebellion - have you received Jesus?**