



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Matthew 14–28 Sermon Series

Supports Session 13: Our Atonement

Sermon Title: “Preparing” (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

Connection to Session 13

The night that Jesus was betrayed, He celebrated the Lord’s Supper with His disciples. This Supper symbolized the beginning of a new covenant. As we will learn in today’s message, Paul called the church at Corinth to remember the actions of Jesus through the Lord’s Supper.

Introduction/Opening

As we near summer, many of us will be going on a family vacation. Prior to going, however, it would be wise to prepare for the trip. We need to find a place to stay. We may plan a few fun outings as well. If we do not prepare, we may not even go on vacation, much less enjoy it. In today’s message, we will see the importance of preparing and this is not for vacation. We are called to prepare to share in the Lord’s Supper. The Scriptures articulate two clear ways to prepare and why it is important for us to do so.

Outline

We prepare by remembering (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

We all have vital dates in our minds that will never leave us. Many of us are old enough to remember 9/11. We remember when we saw the planes hit the World Trade Center. We remember how we felt when the buildings came down and the Pentagon was hit. This is something that will always be etched into our hearts and minds.

As we begin today’s message, we see a command that is to be lived out in the moment. Paul called the church to remember. He was not asking them to remember an anniversary or a birthday. Instead, he called the church to remember the sacrifice that Jesus paid. Paul issued the same command twice. This command applied to the church at Corinth, and it applies to us.

First, we are to remember the broken body of Jesus on the cross and that He laid down His life for us. The broken bread serves as a remembrance of what Jesus went through on the cross. Today a cross is viewed as a decoration in our home or a piece of jewelry that we wear. The cross in the time of Jesus was something much different. It was viewed as an instrument of extreme sacrifice and suffering. The command for us today is to never forget what Jesus did for us and the pain He experienced so that we would not have to pay for our sins.

Second, we are to remember the blood He shed for us. The author of Hebrews said, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (9:22). The shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin began in the garden of Eden when God “made clothing from skins for the man and his wife” (Gen. 3:21) as a direct result of their sins. This was the first sacrifice and Jesus on the cross at Calvary was the last sacrifice. We should never forget what He did for us and His sacrifice.

Some of us have a curious side. We always find ourselves asking, why. If we apply this to today's passage, we find the answer as to why we should always remember. Paul told the church at Corinth as we remember, we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (v. 26).

We have two answers to our question of why we must remember. First, we proclaim the Lord's death. This is vital as the way we are saved is by acknowledging that Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to the Father's will, was crucified as a payment for our sins, and rose again three days later. We cannot be saved apart from acknowledging the Lord's death on our behalf and celebrating the Lord's Supper is a means of proclaiming this fact.

Our second answer as to why is that remembering the Lord's Supper acknowledges the return of Jesus. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father where He is enthroned and reigns now. He will, however, return to judge the living and the dead. When He returns, "every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11). Remembering the Lord's Supper allows the church to anticipate and long for His return.

We prepare by examining ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:27-34)

Part of preparing for something means to make sure we are ready. If we are going to prepare for a 5K race, we need to ensure that we are physically and mentally ready for the trek ahead. In a similar manner, we need to examine ourselves to make sure we are ready to partake in and remember the Lord's Supper.

The first point of close examination is to *examine our actions*. The warning Paul provided is to not to eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord "in an unworthy manner" (v. 27). To participate in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner means to be cavalere about the whole thing. If we were to attend a 9/11 ceremony at the World Trade Center, we would not come in and try to engage in comedy. Instead, we would be somber as this would be the mood of the moment. If we rightfully do this at a 9/11 event, how much more so should be when remember the cross?

Second, we should *examine our attitude* towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul told the church to recognize the body. The context of this statement is vital to understand the text. The church at Corinth had significant internal discord and struggle. Paul did not want them to remember the Lord's Supper while maintaining a bad attitude towards a fellow church member. We are to examine ourselves because if we do not, we are apt to experience the discipline of the Father who loves us.

Conclusion

As we conclude the message and prepare to celebrate and remember the Lord's Supper this morning, let us never forget the sacrifice that Jesus paid for us. As we remember, let us also reflect upon the relationships we have within the church. If we have something against a brother or sister, let this moment be when we forgive each other as Christ has forgiven us.

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