

Introduction:

- Mt. 26:21-31;
- *"And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. **Do this in remembrance of me.**' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'"* (Luke 22:19-20, ESV)
- *"For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift."* (John 1:16, AMP)

I. The Base/Foundation

A. Passover Celebration was about:

1. Him...God! Period! It is about who He and what He did.
2. Bringing heaven to earth. God coming down to help. Slavery to freedom!
3. Revealing the heart of God towards His people. He 'hesed' love! Lovingkindness.
4. Finding mercy in obedience.
 - a) Moses had to go to Egypt to be the deliverer.
 - b) The people had to follow Moses/God's leadership.

B. It was not just about what God did, but to remember who He is.

1. If all we remember is what He did we will soon forget about Him.
2. Humanity has such a way of forgetting the most important things and remembering the activity that we do.
 - a) Used to be Sunday was a Sabbath day in America. Stores were closed, people went to church. They worshipped, they ate meals together as families, God was important to their lives.
 - b) Then Sunday was forgotten, and God was forgotten, and now we have lost people who go through the actions possibly twice a year. Seven years ago the average christian attend church three out of four Sundays. Now the average Christian attends church 1.5 times a month (excluding online) because the average online viewer is only there a few minutes.
3. Humanity can ritualize most things very quickly and it become business as usual.

C. Passover was about keeping God at the center of our lives. It was a time to recalibrate one's life, and celebrate God-life.

D. Jesus was desiring to do this with His disciples....with us.

II. The Brackets

A. Bracket defined by Webster: "To extend around so as to encompass or include."
There are two brackets around which the communion account is found.

1. Matthew 26:21-22—The first bracket – you will betray me. *“And as they were eating, he said, ‘Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.’ And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, ‘is it I, Lord?’”* (Matthew 26:21-22, ESV)
 - a) Paradosea - to hand over.
 - b) One of you will hand me over.
 - c) Which causes sorrow and prompts the question: “Is it I, Lord?” This is a tough way to start a celebration time!
 2. Mt 26:31 - The second bracket – you will all fall away...because of me.
 - a) Fall away - Gr. is scandalon – to be offended. It is the little trigger mechanism found in a trap.
 - b) Peter speaks out, “Not me never!” Jesus tells him about the rooster by the third time.
- B. I find it interesting that this precious moment that Jesus longs to celebrate the passover meal is surrounded by these two dark brackets that are typical of all humanity. Yet, it does not phase Jesus!
1. They want position. James and John
 2. They want no part of Him. Judas
 3. They will all be offended by Him
- C. Yet Jesus longs to eat this meal with them.
1. He loves them.
 2. Ro 5:8 while enemies He still loves them.

III. The Target

- A. The target is simple. Jesus gave it to us in Luke 22:19-20. **Do this in remembrance of me.** There are three parts to this simple instruction.
- B. ‘Do this’ is what most people focus on because it requires no faith whatsoever. Just do this...
 1. Eat bread
 2. Drink juice.
- C. ‘Remember’ again most people do what is easiest and requires the least amount of faith.
 1. We turn on the recollection part of our brain and remember...
 - a) What we have experienced...in life in receiving communion. Ie. The boys first communion with real wine.
 - b) What we have been taught. We spit out the knowledge.
- D. ‘Of me!’ Remember me! That is the bottom line!

1. Remember - Heb. - *Zakar* does mean "to remember," but it also means "to bring someone to mind and then act upon that person's behalf." The Hebrew idea of remembering always includes acting on behalf of the one brought to mind."
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2. Jesus is saying remember me and act on behalf of me. In other words, we participate because we partake of Christ! We remember and are affectionately moved by the One we remember.
3. So often we remember the body, and the blood without remembering Him. We remember the theology, we remember the scripture and we don't remember Him.
- E. We are exhorted to remember Him! To remember Him is to practice His actions and what was important to Him.
 1. His heart towards us. His character. His love.
- F. When I remember Him, I remember...how He responded to...
 1. The woman at the well
 2. The woman with the issue of blood
 3. Blind Bartimaeus crying out
 4. The woman caught in adultery
 5. Nicodemus, the Pharisee.

Conclusion:

- The passover was meant to touch the heart with remembrance.
- Gratitude is produced when we remember Him and not just what He did.
- Who was this man who did this?
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