

CALL to PRAYER -

Model Prayer / Lord's Payer

Reminder - Be reading through Ephesians in preparation for new series in that letter.

Intro - We are a people prone to forget so we need encouragement to remember. We also need repetition to help us remember. "Remember the Sabbath day..." (a weekly ritual as a reminder...lest we forget). On this Lord's Day we get to celebrate the Lord's Supper which is a repeated ritual that helps us to remember. Jesus said to *do this is remembrance of Him*. It seems strange that Christians would be prone to forget Christ (and what Christ did), but scripture reminds us in 2 Timothy 2:8 to "Remember Jesus Christ." The Psalmist tells us in Ps. 103:1-2 ^{NKJV} (middle verse of Bible) to "Bless the LORD...forget not all His benefits"; the first of which is "*who forgives all our iniquities*." Ps. 103:3a Forgiveness is something the forgiven are prone to forget...not so much the word "forgiveness" but the meaning of forgiveness is often forgotten by the forgiven. This meal today is a reminder (to us who are forgiven) of Jesus Christ & price He paid for our forgiveness. Forgiveness isn't cheap.

Matthew 26:26-29 - The Price of Forgiveness

- The context Passover meal the night before the crucifixion
 - Jesus uses the Passover (blood substitute) to institute the Lord's Supper
 - A lamb in place of the people to turn aside the wrath of God. (propitiation)
- This Supper is a symbol of God's salvation.
 - The Person of Salvation. The Promise of Salvation. The Price of Salvation
 - It reminds us: Who forgave us...Why He forgave us...&... How He forgave us.

THE PERSON OF SALVATION

- Jesus Christ is The Passover Lamb. "*Christ our Passover*" 1 Cor. 5:7b
 - He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29
 - This bread represents HIS body. "...*this is MY body...*"
 - This cup represents HIS blood. "...*this is the new covenant in MY blood...*"
 - Jesus is the Person of Salvation...He IS Salvation
 - *Do this in remembrance of ME.* Luke 5:21b - who can forgive sins, by God alone?

THE PROMISE OF SALVATION

- This meal is a covenant meal. This meal portrays a promise that was made.
 - There is an inner-Trinitarian promise of salvation & forgiveness.
 - The Father promised the Son to forgive all those He gave to the Son. John 6:38-39
 - The Son promised the Father to represent them and die for them John 10:14-15
 - The Spirit promised to bring all the redeemed to faith and repentance. Heb. 10:15-16
 - God promises all of humanity that all who are in Christ will be forgiven. John 6:40

THE PRICE OF SALVATION

- Forgiveness is not free.
 - Forgiveness was purchased with the blood of a promise. Matt. 26:28

- We are prone to forget about the cost of forgiveness.
 - Forgiveness is often conveyed as just cheap forgetfulness.
 - Casually overlook something and just sweep it under the rug.
 - “No big deal””water off a ducks back.” A shrug or a wink
 - Our forgiveness cost Jesus His life and blood. Heb. 9:22 Matt. 26:28
- Romans 4:7-8
 - Forgiveness happens when sins are covered by transferring to another’s account
 - Ever had someone say at a meal, “*I’ve got you covered.*”
 - That doesn’t mean nobody pays the bill...but somebody pays bill for you
 - Forgiveness is not absconding on a debt or overlooking a debt...
 - Forgiveness is when the offended party absorbs the debt.
 - Forgiveness is when God says, “*I won’t make you pay, I will pay for you*”
- This meal reminds us that our forgiveness came at great cost.
 - Jesus’ body was broken and His blood was spilt.
 - Jesus absorbed the eternal wrath of God that was justly unleashed on our sin
 - JESUS WAS FORSAKEN SO WE COULD BE FORGIVEN - Matt. 27:46
 - We need consistent reminders of this...lest we forget.
- This meal is a perpetual reminder in this life & in the life to come.
 - This meal points to a future meal in the kingdom - Matthew 26:29
 - A perpetual meal and eternal reminder
 - *When we’ve been there 10,000 years bright shining as the sun;....*
....will we e’er forget that price HE paid, and all that Christ has done?
 - NO! there will be a meal to remind us
 - There will be a scarred visage at that table
 - Rev. 5:6 - the only human body in heaven with scars will be the One who bears the marks of our forgiveness. Eternal gaze at the price paid.
 - Rev. 5:9 - Eternal praise for the ONE who covered our cost.
- This Supper is a solemn celebration
 - We celebrate our forgiveness that came at such a great and solemn cost
 - Luke 7:41-43 At this meal think about your debt.
 - If you have been forgiven much... then love Him much!

Open Communion

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Celebrate

“Man of Sorrows!” what a name	for the Son of God who came	Ruined sinners to reclaim...
Bearing shame and scoffing rude,	in my place condemned He stood,	Sealed my pardon with His blood...
Guilty, vile and helpless we,	Spotless Lamb of God was He;	Full atonement! Can it be?...
Lifted up was He to die,	“It is finished” was His cry;	Now in heaven exalted high...
When He comes our glorious King,	all His ransomed home to bring,	Then anew this song we’ll sing...

This memorial meal is not a payment but it points to the one-time payment –
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe... Nothing left to be paid Heb. 10:10-14, 18