

CALL to PRAYER -

Lord's Prayer / Model prayer

(6 petitions)

God's Name, God's Kingdom, God's Will. Our physical, relational & spiritual needs

Intro - A great way to start off a new year is by being in church and it is fitting that the first Lord's Day of the year is a Lord's Supper SONday. Jesus commanded that His followers remember Him in certain way. We are to gather together upon the first day of week and as we gather, we are to regularly celebrate a meal. Two elements (bread & wine) in *one meal* are to be shared by "*the many*" in remembrance & celebration of our ONE Savior. Many other manmade methods are utilized to remember Jesus, but the Savior approved method is the one memorial meal shared among the many redeemed. (Do this...) This is why we have gathered today. The text I am about to read to prepare us for this sacred meal might at first seem out of place but I trust by the end you will see its application, and that it will aid in your celebration of our Great God & Savior Jesus Christ - who loved us and laid down His life for us that we may be saved.

Genesis 18:9-33 - The ONE for the Many

- This is the chapter in Genesis right before God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah
 - It is a famous text with a lot of fascinating pieces involved in the account
 - **A promised son** (with specific due date! - 25 years after initial promise)
 - **Laughter** (original promise made when they were old)
 - now 25 years later they are still no spring chickens
 - both laughed - Gen. 17:17 Gen. 18:13
 - **God's ability and character** check their laughter - Gen. 18:14
 - **God's impending judgment** is revealed
 - **Abraham pleading** for Sodom and **asking** for mercy for them (**haggling**)
 - **God agreeing** to Abrahams terms
 - Each of these elements is woven together in the account that leads (I think) to the culmination of a question. The end of the chapter begs an important question.
 - The Gospel gives us the answer, and it is hidden in plain sight in Gen. 18
- It is interesting that the lead up to the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah contains God's promise of a son... (the preface and precursor to judgment is a promise...a promised son)
 - a miraculous birth that is so hard to believe it leaves the people of faith laughing
 - The doubting and laughing believers are reassured by God's sovereignty
- God has a relationship with Abraham. He loves him...and has chosen him ^{Gen. 18:17-19} and so He tells Abraham what He is about to do to Sodom and Gomorrah
- Abraham pleads with God for mercy and he knows that God is a just Judge
 - Genesis 18:23-25
 - God agrees to spare *the many* on account of the few - Gen. 18:26
- Then Abraham begins to haggle the bidding started with 50
 - What if there are only 45...40...35...30....25....20....15.....10
 - Did you ever wonder why Abraham stopped at 10? Why not 5...or1?

- Would God have saved a whole wicked city on account of one righteous person?
 - Jer. 5:1 God would have saved Jerusalem...or Sodom
 - Man's dilemma is that there is no one righteous, not even one - Rom. 3:10-12
 - The fire must fall from the Just and Holy God
 - But the impossible situation has a solution
 - A Promised Son
 - A promise so unbelievable that it might make us laugh (miraculous birth)
 - I think you can see the connection
 - Would God send His only begotten Son to save many sinners?
 - A whole city full of: sodomites & rebels, murderers & blasphemers, adulterers & idolaters, thieves and liars, greedy Sabbath breakers
 - *On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame. And I love that old rugged cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain*
 - The amazing fact of history is that there is ONE righteous man
 - The God-Man Jesus Christ - Fully God. Fully man. Fully righteous
 - 2 Cor. 5:21
 - Rom. 5:8-9 the Substitute saves us from God's wrath
 - Rom. 5:19
 - Mark 10:45 *"...give His life a ransom for many."*
 - The meal we are about to observe is a celebration of the ONE...the ONE SON
 - Jesus is the ONE and we are the many that He came to save
 - This fact makes us laugh and celebrate
 - We believe the unbelievable truth of the Substitutionary Atonement
 - Propitiation - The fire of God's wrath must fall but it was diverted away from the many and onto the ONE. It fell on the ONE Son instead of us
 - Isaiah 53:6, 12b
 - *"Alas and did my Savior bleed and did My Sovereign die...."* #145
- Open / Close Communion

 Examine yourself

Fencing the Table

 Discern the Body

A Solemn Celebration - repent of sin then rejoice in Jesus - laugh because of the promised Son

- One meal for the many
 - one bread broken for the many
 - one cup poured out for the many Matt. 26:27-28
 - One Savior for the many sinners