

Discovering True Riches in Christ

New Life Lessons
July 18th & 19th, 2015
Pastor Ron Salisbury

Day One – Read Matthew 26:26-30; John 6:35, 47-56.

Imagine the disciples hearing these words for the first time. How strange they must have sounded! Jesus was introducing the “sacrament of communion.” This spiritual meal would connect Christ’s followers to him and to each other. We have communion with the Universal Church around the world and throughout the ages.

Pray and thank God for the provisions of his grace and the promise of his presence.

Day Two – Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

Paul was recalling the words that Jesus had spoken to him. What are we actually doing when we “remember” Jesus in the communion meal?

Pray and thank God for the saving work of Christ in your life. Ask him to help you remember his death and resurrection as a source of joy, thanksgiving and hope.

Day Three – Read Matthew 26:38; Mark 14:24.

In the Communion meal, we remember Christ’s sacrifice but we also recognize our sacrifice that is part of what it means to follow Jesus (Luke 9:23.) Communion is a recommitment to trust and obey Jesus.

Pray and thank Jesus for the sacrifice he made for your forgiveness and freedom. Ask him for the wisdom and grace needed to recognize the areas of sacrifice that following Jesus requires. Ask for the courage and strength to “lay your life down” in serving Christ.

“The Real Value of Communion”

True Riches #2

Matthew 26:26-30; John 6:35, 53-56; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Matthew 26:26-30 (NIV) ²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “**Take and eat; this is my body.**” ²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “**Drink from it, all of you.**” ²⁸ **This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.** ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.**” ³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. John 6:35, 47-56

What is a Sacrament?

“The Latin word, Sacramentum came to refer to the oath of allegiance taken by a Roman soldier as he promised to serve and defend the empire. Sacramentum, as a soldier’s oath of allegiance, became the ancestor of our word sacrament, which is both our pledge of allegiance to the gospel and God’s covenant promise to us.”

- Rob Staples, Outward Sign and Inward Grace

“A Visible Sign of a Covenant Promise”

Baptism and Communion

(Initiation)

(Sanctification)

Mark 4:11a (NKJV) ^{11a} Jesus said to them, “To you it has been given to know **the mystery** of the kingdom of God. (*mysterion – secret, mystery*)

Colossians 1:27 (NIV) ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of **this mystery**, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Romans 6:3-4 (NIV) ³ Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death?** ⁴ We were therefore **buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.** Matthew 28:19-20, Colossians 2:11-12

The Sacrament of Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NIV) ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, **"This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."** ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

Five Images of Communion

1. A Thanksgiving to the Father.

Eucharist (*eucharistein* – "To be thankful")

Jesus began the meal by *"giving thanks."* Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the early church, communion was a joyful celebration. It was not until the late middle ages that an attitude of solemn mourning became the dominant expression of reverence.

For what should we give thanks?

2. A Commemoration of Christ.

Jesus said, *"Do this in remembrance of me."* Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 *anamnesis* – "without forgetting"

What should we remember?

1 Chronicles 16:11-12a

Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 1:7, 9;

3. A Sacrifice of Ourselves.

Jesus said, *"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* Matthew 26:38; Mark 14:24

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25

Romans 12:1 Sacrificing ourselves to God is *"...our reasonable act of worship."* Philippians 2:5-8; Proverbs 3:5-6

What should we sacrifice?

4. A Fellowship of the Faithful.

Paul said, "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation (*koinonia*) in the blood of Christ?" Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-18

How do we maintain our unity in Christ?

5. A Foretaste of the Kingdom to Come.

Paul says, *"We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."* 1 Corinthians 11:26

Jesus said, *"I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my father's kingdom."* Matthew 26:29

How should our anticipation of Christ's return affect our life today? Matthew 6:19-21; 25:21; Luke 18:29-30; Revelation 22:12

***The Participation in Cleansing Grace,
the Pledge of a Consecrated Life, and
the Promise of a Coming King!***