

Maundy Thursday

Oh Praise the name (4108797) (A)

What are our memories of Jesus? Let's just spend a little bit of time thinking about Jesus. What do we know about Him? What do we remember about our life with Him? Do you remember when you first met Him? Or what about when you were baptised or made a public commitment?

Now think about this: the disciples were having a meal and Jesus told them He was going. What would they have remembered? Miracles, walking on water, feeding thousands, sermon on the mount, having a go at the Pharisees. Lots of memories.

Jesus wants us to remember.

Read Luke 22:14-23

Luke 22:14-23 (ESV)

- ¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.
- ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
- ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
- ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves.
- ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
- ¹⁹ 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."
- ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.
- ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.
- ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"
- ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Cup First – Remember that the Last supper was a Passover feast. The Jewish Passover had many components and there are a number of set times to eat certain foods and drink as times of significant remembrance. We see this recorded here. It doesn't mean we need to drink two lots of wine, but we could. The idea is to use the ceremony as a series of actions that lead us to remember.

As part of the ceremony of the Passover certain foods were eaten. A whole lamb, flat bread with no yeast, and of course wine. Jesus used the existing feast to point out how He becomes the sacrifice in our place. The bread indicates that He takes the painful punishment.

Taking the bread. – Sharing it around.

Man of sorrows ((29530) (G)

We remember Jesus at Easter.

Jesus took a different yet significant part of the passive festival to make the point of Him being the replacement sacrifice for us.

In the Passover feast everything was laid out before. No cups were filled on the table while the feast happened but poured before hand. There were a number of cups that signified different things. Yet there was one cup left that was filled but never drunk. That was for the Messiah. Until this point, people hadn't seen it drunk. We assume Jesus took THAT cup and it meant numerous things.

Firstly, He was the messiah, the one the people waited for, secondly he became the sacrifice in our place, thirdly He provided the blood needed for forgiveness. The Jewish passive uses blood, remember the blood on the doorposts so the angel of death would passover the house. Jesus blood is now why God "Passesover" our punishment.

Take the cup again. Further sharing.

To finish we will leave you where Jesus was left. It is after all this with all its meaning and significance that Jesus goes out to pray. Judas has set up the betrayal. While Judas betrayed Jesus all those years ago, so did the other disciples as they ran away, so have we with each sin. We remember tonight that:
It is us as much as Judas who sent Jesus to the cross.

We remember the betrayal tonight and the crucifixion and death tomorrow but we have a Sunday attitude. We know Jesus rose, We know Jesus died and rose again so that we might know Him. While we remember the dark and horrible times we remember the glorious life of Jesus permanently risen.

But now, remember Jesus has left.

In Christ Alone (3350395) (D