

**My Journey to Easter
Through the Lord's Supper**

March 23, 2014

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During our worship, these three passages of Scripture will be read.

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who has believed what we have heard?
And who has the arm of the LORD been revealed to?

² He grew up before Him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground.

He didn't have an impressive form
or majesty that we should look at Him,
no appearance that we should desire Him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of suffering who knew what sickness was.
He was like someone people turned away from;
He was despised, and we didn't value Him.

⁴ Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses,
and He carried our pains;
but we in turn regarded Him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced because of our transgressions,
crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on Him,
and we are healed by His wounds.

⁶ We all went astray like sheep;
we all have turned to our own way;
and the LORD has punished Him
for the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet He did not open His mouth.
Like a lamb led to the slaughter
and like a sheep silent before her shearers,
He did not open His mouth.

⁸ He was taken away because of oppression and judgment;
and who considered His fate?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
He was struck because of my people's rebellion.

⁹ They made His grave with the wicked
and with a rich man at His death,

although He had done no violence
and had not spoken deceitfully.

¹⁰ Yet the LORD was pleased to crush Him severely.
When You make Him a restitution offering,
He will see His seed, He will prolong His days,
and by His hand, the LORD's pleasure will be accomplished.

¹¹ He will see it out of His anguish,
and He will be satisfied with His knowledge.
My righteous Servant will justify many,
and He will carry their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion,
and He will receive the mighty as spoil,
because He submitted Himself to death,
and was counted among the rebels;
yet He bore the sin of many
and interceded for the rebels.

1 Corinthians 11:17-28

¹⁷ Now in giving the following instruction I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For to begin with, I hear that when you come together as a church there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ There must, indeed, be factions among you, so that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ Therefore, when you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For at the meal, each one eats his own supper ahead of others. So one person is hungry while another gets drunk! ²² Don't you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you look down on the church of God and embarrass those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you for this!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴ gave thanks, 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 also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ So a man should examine himself; in this way he should eat the bread and drink from the cup.

Mark 15:25-39

Now it was nine in the morning when they crucified Him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge written against Him was:

²⁷ They crucified two criminals with Him, one on His right and one on His left. [²⁸ So the Scripture was fulfilled that says: And He was counted among outlaws.] ²⁹ Those who passed by were yelling insults at Him, shaking their heads, and saying, “Ha! The One who would demolish the sanctuary and build it in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself by coming down from the cross!” ³¹ In the same way, the chief priests with the scribes were mocking Him to one another and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself! ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe.” Even those who were crucified with Him were taunting Him.

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lemá sabachtháni?*” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

³⁵ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “Look, He’s calling for Elijah!” ³⁶ Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, fixed it on a reed, offered Him a drink, and said, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to take Him down!”

³⁷ But Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed His last. ³⁸ Then the curtain of the sanctuary was split in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion, who was standing opposite Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

As we journey toward Easter Sunday, I want to make this very personal for each of us. So, we have chosen to lead you to think about some of those worship experiences, events, and even words that cause us most to identify with Easter. Today, we start with the Lord’s Supper. Our Lord instructed us to observe this supper together because it serves to remind us in a very moving and visual way His death.

First things first: First, let’s deal with two fundamental issues.

- 1. The elements are symbolic of Jesus, not literal.**
- 2. We participate in this observance to remind ourselves of grace, not receive grace.**

There are three words that I want you to pay close attention to in these moments of preparation.

Betrayal

Reminding ourselves of the betrayal creates in us an awareness of our sin. We are sinners in need of a Savior. We are all capable of that same kind of betrayal of Judas.

Body

His body “which is broken for you” reminds us of our advantage in Christ. It was for our advantage that Christ came.

Blood

His blood supplies the answer. "This cup is the new covenant in MY blood." Why did we need a new covenant? Did God change His mind? Not at all. The Old Covenant causes us to see that we need a Savior.

As we journey toward Easter, we journey backwards in remembrance. In remembrance, we come in profound gratitude, thanksgiving, and worship.