

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Nassau Bay Baptist Church

April 25, 2021

Read Luke 22:7-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

In these passages we see the Last Supper and the Lord's Supper. These two are not the same, but they are connected.

Luke 22

vv. 7-13 Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover. Much discussion has been had whether Jesus secretly reserved the room ahead of Peter and John, but that misses the point. First, the disciples had to cross paths with a man carrying a pitcher of water who would lead them to the place. Having reserved the room would have meant nothing had they not encountered that man in that place carrying a pitcher and leading them to the house. The entire episode was a miraculous act that might well have been guided by angels.

vv. 14-20 Jesus deeply desired to share this Passover with the disciples before He suffered and died. He said he definitely would not eat of it until it is completed/fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. Herein, Jesus tells us that the Passover is prophetic. It foretells what will be accomplished. So the Passover is memorial, but it also is prophetic in two ways.

First, it was prophetic throughout Old Testament times of the coming Lord and Savior who would be the sacrificial Lamb for us. Second, it is prophetic at the moment of the Last Supper of more that is yet to be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.

In v. 17, Jesus took the first cup but did not drink it. This is the cup of sanctification, which recalls that God brought His people out of slavery. Jesus had come to bring mankind out of the slavery to sin.

He then broke bread and took the cup after supper, the cup of redemption. The cup of redemption is "the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

1 Corinthians 11

Let's focus on vv. 27-32 and the warning against receiving the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner. The context of these warnings are not directly relevant to our situation. We learned not to make the Lord's Supper a big meal and how to avoid some being gluttons and others going away hungry. We give everyone the tiniest piece of unleavened bread and less than a thimbleful to drink.

Yet the commands and the warnings remain. We are not to partake of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner. This does not mean that somehow we could be worthy to partake. In ourselves, none of us is.

The word that is translated "unworthily" or "unworthy manner" is *anaxios*, and literally, it means "lacking a correspondence to real value." In other words, to eat and to drink the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner is to eat and to drink, to engage the Lord's Supper in a way that does not correspond to its real value. So what is the real value of the Lord's Supper? The Lord's Supper is representative of the death of God, Himself, Jesus Christ, to redeem us from our sins. It represents the broken body and shed blood of our savior. To handle the Lord's body and blood in a way that corresponds with its real value means to handle it with eternal seriousness, solemnity, and gravity.

Among other factors, such seriousness must include a seriousness about sin. To eat His broken body and to drink His shed blood, symbolically, while treating sin lightly is a slap in Jesus's face. God the Father judges those who slap His Son. The Holy Spirit through Paul emphasized this clearly in verses 29 and 30.

*For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner,
eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

No one can say it more plainly. To eat and to drink judgment to oneself is symbolized by the very acts of drinking and eating.

What is the location of sin in our lives? Is it not in the decisions we make? And where, biblically, are those decisions made? Is it not in the heart? And biblical synonyms for the heart include our internal organs. We understand this. We talk about making a "gut decision." And what is one of the great sources of sin? Does not James say it is the tongue?

*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.
The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body,
and sets on fire the course of nature;
and it is set on fire by hell.*
James 3:6

As we symbolically swallow our Lord's body and drink His blood, we crunch and pour the elements over our tongues, past our hearts, and into our guts, the primary sources of our sins. If these are not cleansed, confessed, and repented, we shame our Lord, His suffering and sacrifice, and His grace to us.

Because Christians do this, the Holy Spirit told us that "*many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep (are dead).*" God is not playing the church game. God is gracious, but He is serious, and He expects His people to be serious, especially about His Son and His Son's sacrifice for us.

So we must examine ourselves and judge ourselves that we would not be judged. "But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world." This is grace. And we must confess, agree with God about our sin, and we must turn from it in repentance. We must come to the table with clean accounts before God.