

THE STORYTELLER

“The Bread and Cup”

Pastor Michael Lee

March 28, 2010

Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (ESV)

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNION IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER (vv. 17-22, 27-34)

1. Participating while having a sinful and unrepentant heart, especially _____ towards others (vv. 17-22, 33-34).

- This does not mean that I have to be sinless to partake of communion. Instead, it means that I approach the table of Christ with a broken heart and a contrite spirit for the sins that I have committed.

2. Participating while _____ the significance of communion (vv. 27-32).

- I can be concerned with going through the ritualistic motions—i.e., superficial ceremony—without reverence for the reason for observing the bread and the cup.
- God will discipline me in love (for the purpose of correction and restoration) (v. 32) for partaking of communion in an unworthy manner. However, God will not condemn me for it.

THE MEANING OF COMMUNION (vv. 23-26)

1. Past reference – It is an act of _____ Jesus’ death (vv. 23-25).

- The bread represents the broken body of Jesus for the forgiveness of my sins. The bread is not literally his body.
- The cup represents the shed blood of Jesus without which the new covenant—the new relationship with God—could never have been possible. The drink is not literally his blood.

OLD COVENANT

1. Based on law and the ability to keep the law.
2. Lived in fear of God because of their constant guilt since they could never perfectly keep the law.
3. Needed to constantly offer up sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins.

NEW COVENANT

1. Based on love and the free grace of God’s love.
2. Live in peace with God, coming to God as a child to a compassionate father.
3. Sins forgiven once and for all through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. Present reference – It is an act of _____ with Jesus now in the unity of faith with other believers (vv. 23-25).

- To the Hebrew mind the concept of remembering meant more than simply recalling something that happened in the past. It meant recapturing the reality and significance of a person or situation in one’s conscious mind with implications for the present.
- Communion is the means of a personal encounter with Jesus Christ here and now in the context Christian fellowship.

3. Future reference – It is an act of _____ Jesus’ return (v. 26).

- Communion is the means of expressing my faith that Jesus will return to fulfill his promise to save the lost.

MY RESPONSE

I must _____ to make sure that my heart is right before the Lord (v. 28).

CENTRAL TRUTH

God’s people are to remember Jesus’ death, commune with him, and anticipate his return through communion in a worthy manner.

** LifeGroup Study questions are available for pick up at the Information Center located in the lobby. They are also available online at www.ynccla.org.

** CDs of today’s message will be available next Sunday in the YNCC office. Previous weeks’ sermon CDs are also available in the office. All sermons are viewable online at www.ynccla.org/sermons.

