

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:26-30

I. Memorials Can Powerfully Connect Us To Events

- A.** Sometimes somber – Pearl Harbor, Vietnam Memorial
- B.** Sometimes joyous – birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas
- C.** Great example – Joshua crossing the Jordan
- D.** Memorials can be a pile of rocks
- E.** They serve a purpose – keep the memory alive
- F.** We need more than words

II. The Passover Supper with Jesus

- A.** Annual Passover had arrived
- B.** Familiar tradition but tension building
- C.** Jesus makes shocking statements and predictions
- D.** Matthew 26:26-30
- E.** In John's gospel Jesus' disciples were scandalized
- F.** With those words Jesus redefined the Passover
- G.** Do this in remembrance of me

III. What Shall We Remember?

- A.** Remember how much God loves you
 - God's love is proven
 - Romans 5:7-8
- B.** Remember you have been set free
 - Set free from enslavement to sin - Romans 6:6b-7
 - 1.** You are going to serve somebody
 - 2.** Your independence is an illusion
 - Set free from fear
 - 1.** This is not all there is Romans 6:5
 - 2.** Same power that raised Jesus is in you - Romans 8:11
 - Free to hope
 - 1.** To those barely hanging on
 - 2.** A new day dawning
 - 3.** Revelation 21

- C.** Remember His forgiveness
 - Acknowledge our need
 - He is faithful to forgive our sin
 - The elation of being forgiven
 - Jesus has paid our penalty – John 2:2
 - Because of what He did we have become the righteousness of Christ - II Corinthians 5:21

- D.** The Last Supper reminds us of who we are
 - The struggle to find the real me
 - You belong to God's family
 - We are one people
 - Now free from proving ourselves to others
 - All this and much more

IV. Thoughts

- A.** The Lord's Supper is the time to remember Jesus' worthiness not our unworthiness. Not primarily a time of self-reflection, but rather Christ reflection and what his sacrifice accomplished for us - Galatians 2:20
- B.** It is easy to trivialize even the most profound memorials
- C.** Antidote is to experience the event...to own it.
 - Personal Illustration: The Story of the Plaque
- D.** The Lord's Supper reminds us that real life is found in Christ as we place our trust in his life, death and resurrection. This life is ours for the asking; let's ask together as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.