

## 耶稣所设立的主餐——马可福音 14:22-26

# The Lord's Table as Jesus Instituted It—Mark 14:22-26

### *Introduction and Outline*

- Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-14; Mark 14:22- 26.

#### **Mark 14:12-21** (NASB1995)

**22** While they were eating, He took *some* bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, “Take *it*; this is My body.” **23** And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. **24** And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. **25** Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” **26** After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- Example: The importance of memory (progression of Alzheimer's disease)
- Key point: The importance of spiritual memory. When a Christian falls into a state of spiritual amnesia and forgets about important spiritual truths, he's had spiritual Alzheimer's disease and his spiritual health is in serious danger.

- Outline:

Title: The Lord's Table as Jesus Instituted It—Mark 14:22-26

1. The Purpose—Remembrance of Spiritual Truth (related verses)
2. The Historical Component—Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice (vv. 22b, 24, 26)
3. The Present Component—Testimony of Christ's Life (vv. 22a, 23)
4. The Future Component—Hope of the Coming Kingdom (v.25)

### **The Purpose—Remembrance of Spiritual Truth (related verses)**

- **2 Peter 1:5-9** “.....faith ..... moral excellence.....knowledge..... self-control.....perseverance.....godliness.....brotherly kindness.....love..... For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, **having forgotten** his purification from his former sins.”

**【Insight】** The result of spiritual amnesia is the inability to bear the fruit of the Christian life. What does it mean to be cleansed from sin? What is the salvation of the Lord Jesus that forgives sins? Can't remember.

- **Revelation 2:4-5** “..... that you have left your first love. Therefore **remember** from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first .....

**【Insight】** The result of spiritual amnesia is to lose your first love. On the outside, you may still be doing much zealous service; but on the inside, your heart has become cold, bitter, proud, and self-centered, no longer loving God and others from your heart like you first did.

**【Solution】** Remember. Those long-shelved spiritual memories need to be picked up and dusted off. Review it! Recall it! Remember it! Remember the precious gospel of Jesus' sin-atonement sacrifice for sins. Remember how you first heard the gospel, how you sincerely longed for the forgiveness of your

sin, how you responded to the gospel with joy, how you confessed your sins and repented from your heart, and how you willingly dedicated your entire life to the Lord. You must remember these spiritual memories so you may regain the love you have lost.

- God knows our needs and has provided us with practical help so we can remember these important spiritual truths on a regular basis. Such help usually comes in external forms that prompt us to consider the spiritual truths behind.

【Examples】 Rainbow (Genesis 9), various rituals (circumcision and Passover in the Old Testament; baptism and the Lord's Table in the New Testament)

【Key Point】 The significance of all such rituals (including the Lord's Table) lies in spiritual remembrance. God knows we need this kind of remembrance so we may not fall into a state of spiritual amnesia. That's why He gives us rituals.

### **The Historical Component—Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice (vv. 22b, 24, 26)**

- "While they were eating": The Last Supper before the crucifixion took place on the night of Passover.

【Background】 The Jews were extremely particular about this meal. This is still the case today. The Wikipedia article on Passover dinner (Seder) is extremely long and full of complicated details. Just the dining part alone has like 15 steps. The Bible is actually very simple—lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and that's it. The focus should be on remembering spiritual truths.

- "This is my body ..... This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many": This is the historical component to be remembered at the Lord's Table—Jesus laying down his life and shedding his blood on the cross to accomplish salvation.

【Discernment】 The disciples on that day obviously didn't think they were eating the actual flesh of Jesus' body. However, many people throughout church history did think that! The Catholic teaching of "transubstantiation" basically takes this verse this way. Later, Martin Luther invented the theory of "consubstantiation" in an attempt to correct the erroneous Catholic view, but the correction didn't go far enough, leaving behind some strange mystical ideas. The meaning of Jesus' words is very simple: Remember my sacrifice!

【Application】 Many people try to experience a mystical religious feeling from participating in the Lord's Table, thinking that's what the Lord's Table is designed to do, to make you feel more united to the Lord. Wrong! The Lord's Table is not a passive feeling, but an active remembrance; the content is not some mysterious subjective experience, but a specific historical event!

【Theology】 Jesus says His blood is "the blood of the covenant", and the context is the blood of the Passover Lamb. An important part of the Passover remembrance is that God commanded the Israelites to cover their doorposts with the blood of the Lamb, so that when the destroying angel came to judge the Egyptians by slaying their firstborn, he would see the blood-covered doors and pass over the Israelites' homes without slaying their firstborn. For the lamb had shed his blood and died in their place.

**Exodus 24:8:** “So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold **the blood of the covenant**, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

**Hebrews 9:22:** “..... **without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**”

**Hebrews 10:4, 12:** “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ... but He, having offered **one sacrifice for sins for all time**, sat down at the right hand of God,”

### **The Present Component—Testimony of Christ's Life (vv. 22a, 23)**

- "They all drank": Drinking the covenant-blood! The symbolic meaning is not only the removal of sin, but also a real life-connection with the Lord Jesus. Why didn't Jesus just ask them to sprinkle grape juice on their bodies, just like what they did with the blood of the animal sacrifice in the Old Testament? Why did He ask them to drink it all in? Because the blood of Jesus is much more precious than the blood of the OT sacrifices. It not only cleanses us from sin, but also imparts God's life into our being. The blood-covenant isn't just a covenant that removes sin, but one that imparts life.

【Analogy】 Examples of drinking blood to make covenants are found elsewhere in human history. For example, the ancient Chinese blood-brother ritual. The sworn brothers had to cut their fingers and squeeze out drops of blood into a cup of wine and drink it. This is to symbolize a blood connection that they'd live and die together and remain in lifelong loyalty to one another.

**Leviticus 17:11:** “ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, .....”

**John 6:55-56:** “ For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”

**Galatians 2:20:** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

【Application】 Every time we come to the Lord's Table, it must be a **fresh** spiritual activity. We engage our **present** life in the remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection and what it means for our life **today**.

**1 Corinthians 11:28** “ But a man must **examine himself**, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup”

- “He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them”: The disciples did not each receive a full loaf of bread, but a piece broken off from the same loaf, which together make up the whole. Jesus says, this whole bread is the representation of His body.

【Insight】 The present component remembered at the Lord's Table is **not only our individual life**, but also our **corporate life! The life of Jesus operates in the church**, and not just in individual Christians.

**1 Corinthians 10:17** “Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.”

【Application】 This is why the Lord's Table must be held in the church, not at home, not with a few Christian friends, but in the body of Christ where every member connects to Christ the Head in a

biblical manner. From a more practical point, only those who are fully committed to the life of the church can have a fully meaningful Lord's Table remembrance.

### **The Future Component—Hope of the Coming Kingdom (v.25)**

- “I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”: That very day in the future is the future component of the Lord's Table remembrance. On that day, Jesus will raise this cup again with His disciples in the kingdom of God, and we'll share a new life of fellowship together with Him.

**1 Corinthians 11:26** “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death **until He comes.**”

**【Key Point】** Remember our blessed eternal hope. From the moment Jesus comes in the cloud to rapture us, we will be with Him forever, and He'll be always near us and never far away.

### **Concluding Application**

**For non-believers—**The most common misconception about worship happens when people only see the external forms and ignore the internal spiritual reality. Do not blindly receive the Lord's Supper. We welcome you to come to church to study and to participate in fellowship gatherings, but you need to realize there is no real fellowship between you and the church because you have not yet had true fellowship with the Lord Jesus. You need to confess your sins and accept Jesus' salvation in order to have a life of true worship and to benefit from all eternal forms of worship.

**For Christians—**Imitate Jesus and live in true unity with your brothers and sisters by having a mindset that's willing to lay down your life for them!