

## Meditation

(With credit to <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/why-we-eat-the-lords-supper-part-2>)

I'd like our servers Andrew and Amanda to come up.

When we take the Lord's Supper, we usually use the words of institution found in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 11. The Apostle Paul says in verse 26 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you *proclaim* the Lord's death until He comes." Every time we take the Lord's Supper we proclaim the gospel. We proclaim it to ourselves to sustain faith, and we proclaim it to unbelievers, who may be watching, to awaken faith in them.

## Before the Bread

What is this gospel, this good news that is proclaimed in the Lord's Supper? At its heart, it is the good news of resurrection.

### Risen Lord

In verse 23, Paul says "I received from the *Lord* what I also delivered to you, that the *Lord* Jesus on the night when He was betrayed ..." That word Lord is referring to Jesus' absolute authority and deity. A risen Lord delivered this instruction on communion to the apostle Paul.

### Betrayed According to Plan

At the Last Supper Jesus knew who would betray Him, and when. In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives bread to Judas, as a sign to the others that this is the person who would betray him (John 13:26). Jesus knew that everything was going exactly according to plan. Things were not falling apart; rather, they were coming together.

### Thankfulness for God's Plan

The Apostle Paul continues. Jesus "... took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it." Jesus was giving thanks, not just for physical bread broken in His hand, but for what it signified – His own broken body. But how could He be thankful to God for His own broken body and bloody death? Because He knew He would rise from the dead and be praised forever by those for whom He died. He was confident in the resurrection, and confident in God the Father's perfect plan of salvation.

### Broke in Submission to God's Plan

Jesus says, "This is my body which is for you." Notice, Judas didn't break it. Peter didn't break it. A Roman soldier didn't barge into the room and break it. Jesus broke it. In the Gospel of John, Jesus had said earlier: "I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:15) If He lays down his life, He takes it again. If he breaks His body, He will mend it. He will rise.

## **A Remembrance for Believers**

Next Jesus says “Do this in remembrance of me”. Scripture is clear that Lord’s Supper is for believers. You can’t remember someone whom who don’t know. If you haven’t come to Jesus, if you are holding back in your belief in Him, if you can’t call yourself a Christian, we ask that you’d let the elements pass you by as they are served. We don’t want you to take in what Scripture calls an unworthy manner, because that leads to judgment. But at Cornerstone, we practice open communion. If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ, if you actively trust in His perfect righteousness for your salvation, if you are trusting in Jesus as the only one who can make you worthy, then you are welcome to share in the Lord’s Supper. The Risen Jesus makes you clean. This is for you. It is for us.

Pass the bread.

Let us take, remembering our risen Lord.

## **Before the Cup**

The words of institution continue: “In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The new covenant that Jesus is talking about is a contract between God and believers. God accepts Jesus death in full payment for our sin, and gives us eternal life with the promise of resurrection, as demonstrated by Jesus rising from the dead on Easter morning. We get the credit for Jesus’ perfect life of obedience. God does all the work, as we put our trust in Him.

Pass the cup.

Let us take, remembering Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who lays His life down for the sheep.