In Remembrance of Me

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For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

1. One Day to Live

What would you do if you had only one day to live? Many people might spend their time with family, connecting with long lost friends or apologizing for their mistakes or wrongdoings.

2. Jesus Did Three Things on His Last Day

Do you remember what Jesus did one day before his crucifixion? According to the four gospels, Jesus did three things. First, he had the Passover meal with his disciples. Second, he washed the feet of his disciples. And third, he instituted the Holy Communion.

Why did Jesus do these three things? Jesus did not spend his last day for himself, but he did these three things for his disciples. Jesus wasn't concerned about his death, but his disciples.

Let us think about the meaning of these three things. Why did Jesus spend the Passover not with his family but with his disciples? It is because Jesus wanted his disciples to remember how much God loved His people.

The Passover is one of the most important holidays for Jews. When they have the Seder meal, they are reminded of God's love for his people. Jesus wanted his disciples to remember how God saved their ancestors when they left Egypt for the promised land.

Let us think about washing the feet of the disciples? Why did Jesus wash their feet? Jesus wanted to teach that God loves them by meeting their immediate needs. The Israelites at the time wore sandals instead of shoes. After walking, the feet of the people would need to be washed when returning home or visiting someone's home.

A servant would usually wash the feet of guests or master. But no one was available to wash the feet of Jesus and the disciples. In the middle of the meal, Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Jesus wanted them to be

reminded of God's present love in caring for his people through the washing of the disciples' feet. Washing the feet of the disciples also means that their sins are forgiven.

3. The Institution of the Holy Communion

The most important thing that Jesus did on his last day was the institution of the Holy Communion. Why did Jesus institute the Holy Communion? Verse 24 says, "when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "***this is my body that is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same manner he took the cup also, after super, saying, "this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes***."

The Holy Communion reminded the disciples of Jesus' sacrifice in the sharing of the bread and wine. The Communion is a proclamation of not only Jesus' death, but also his resurrection and his return.

With the bread, Jesus taught his disciples that he gave his body for his disciples. The body was a symbol for his life. In this, Jesus told his disciples that he would give his life to save theirs. When Jesus talked about the bread, he also told the disciples to drink wine in remembrance of his blood that he shed for the new covenant.

Jesus tells the disciples to take Communion in remembrance of him.

The disciples would take Communion to remember the sacrifice of Jesus and at the same time, they remember God's everlasting love. In taking the Holy Communion, Jesus tells the disciples that they proclaim the death of Jesus until he comes again. In this, Jesus tells his disciples that his death is neither the end of his life nor the end of his relationship with his disciples.

Jesus promises the disciples that he will return. With his return, Jesus' life would not end. The life of the disciples would not end either. And God's love for them would never end. Jesus teaches his disciples that they should not be disappointed by his death on the cross. Jesus would not die forever, and he would be back.

4. Conclusion

On the last day before his crucifixion, Jesus left a lasting impact on his disciples. The three things that Jesus did on his last day taught his disciples that God's love is eternal. Because of their experience on Jesus' last day, the disciples were able to give their lives to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

5. Application

Many of us might consider Holy Communion as just one of the religious rituals in church. However, Holy Communion transformed the lives of the disciples. The disciples were able to be free from the fear of death, because they knew that God's love never ends. All of the disciples, except for John, would go on to give up their lives while preaching the gospel to others.

Many people have lost their lives in the past few months. Many may feel sense of fear every day. The disciples lived in a similar constant environment of fear, but they were able to live free from this fear.

The disciples learned that God loved their ancestors in the past, God loves them in the present, and God will love them in the future. The Holy Communion helped Christianity to continue after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus taught the most important lesson to his disciples with the Holy Communion. The Holy Communion is not just a religious ritual we do in church. But it is our way of living without fear of death, proclaiming Jesus' death and resurrection until he returns again to this earth.

St. Paul says to the Thessalonians, "***Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus***." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). If we rejoice and give thanks these days, people might say that we are crazy. But Paul reminds us that this is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus. How can we rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances? If we believe that God's love is everlasting, we can rejoice and give thanks in any circumstances. Amen.