

Matthew 26:26-29 – Jesus clearly institutes a memorial to His death, the shedding of His blood, which ratified a covenant to allow the forgiveness of our sins.

And so we do, just as the Bible teaches in **Acts 20:7**, we partake on the first day of every week. But this triggers questions from our religious friends: “Every week?” “Yes.” “Well,” they reply “doesn’t ever get... I don’t know, boring or mundane or common?” We are quick to say, “absolutely not!” “It is the most important start to and part of every week.” But if we are being completely honest with ourselves, it can happen. The Lord’s Supper can become a 5 minute part of our week in between opening songs and a sermon. Here at worship, we work hard every week to try and keep it sacred and holy to the Lord.

But this morning, we will put special emphasis on the moments when we partake in His Name. And this is important, because Paul designates 2 critical elements of our duty during this meal:

- 1) Proclaim His death until He comes – Remember it, understand it, appreciate it.
- 2) Examine myself – I must use this time to humble myself, check my heart and make sure it is His.

This morning, in preparation for the Lord’s Supper, I’d like to share with you 7 things about Jesus Death. Over the past 3 years or so, I believe I have consider at least 1 and often all 7 of these things every single time I have partaken of these emblems. They help me accomplish the 2 things the Bible demands.

ONE Lord – Acts 4:12 – None else could have done it. *None perfect. None able. None willing.* But One The Lord’s Supper first and foremost is a remembrance of the ONE who did for me what all of us could never do, not for the people we love, not even for the God we love. (**John 14:5-6** – Not the way Thomas expected, through humiliation in death, but He is the ONLY source, ONLY shepherd, ONLY way!)

--I am indebted to Jesus because it had to be Jesus and without Him I would be lost.--

TWO Criminals – Matt. 27:44 – (PAINTING – WHITE ROSE) Regardless of how each man responded to Jesus that day, the comments of the one are true with sobering magnitude... “we indeed are suffering justly...this man has done nothing wrong.” (**Luke 23:39-41**) These two represent all of us. We are sinners. We are worthy to die. To lose it all for our failures. The only one who deserved never to die was hanging between them. Contrast. – Unworthy to be in His presence, deserving death. That’s me.

THREE Crosses – (Matthew 16:24) Upon that hill were 3 men then on 3 crosses. And each cross represented a choice each man chose to bear... Christ, the cross of Redemption... not of Himself but all who would believe in Him! The one man, the cross of Rebellion, **Lu 23:39**, choosing to reject the sacrifice and miss God’s grace. The other man, the cross of Repentance, **Lu 23:40-42**, begging for mercy at the cross! --- The first, none can bear but Jesus, but which of the other two represent you?---

FOUR Soldiers – Did you know John identifies 4 men who crucified him? **John 19:23-24** – And, it was nothing special. They had crucified many and found no reason to give their attention to Jesus. In fact, of more consequence was dividing the garments and getting that tunic.... (**Matt. 27:54** – TOO LATE?) Please, above all else, don’t let these soldiers’ spirit live in you. The unimpressed, unaffected, commonplace, casual observation of Jesus crucifixion. This is not about what we get, but what He did! And what He did for us. Jesus died for those 4 men, and they never took the time to look in His eyes.

FIVE Wounds – Mark 15 – His Back (15 – lashed repeatedly, leaving his back in ribbons) His Head (17-19 – mocking, then beating) His Hands/ His Feet (**Jn. 20:25** – holes that he extended to show the disciples after His resurrection... most excruciating means to crucify.... See...) His Side (**Jn. 19:34** – Though already dead, it represented the last lash against Him by Satan...ever – out flowed blood and water, down his body, that would change the condition of man forever) (GAVE ALL) --The cup is tiny but: “*this is My blood of the covenant, Poured out for many for forgiveness of sins*”

SIX Hours – Mark 15:25,34 - Mark records that this crucifixion lasted 6 hours (third hour to ninth hour) during the heat of the day... Humiliation and Shame, in addition to agony and pain:

“So dehydrated was he that his tongue was swollen; each time his eyes blinked it was as if sandpaper were moving over his cornea. His muscle were so exhausted they quivered like the lips of a child in tears. The nails which pierced His hands were so positioned on the median nerve that pain shot down His arms and through His chest as if they were on fire. And then we recall the burden which the Father laid upon his shoulders – the sins of the world! ... No wonder Isaiah 53 says twice – “He poured out His soul in death.”

SEVEN Phrases – While Jesus hanged there the Bible records 7 things He said. These words hold within them a perfect combination of love, mercy, agony and hope. Beyond even His death, the way that He approached it leaves a lasting affect: *(Tells us some things about this LAMB who would become the LION)*

-- Jesus' Suffering

1) “I thirst” **Jn. 19:28** SUFFERING

2) “Why hast thou forsaken Me?” **Mt. 27:46** LONLINESS (fulfilled prophecy to emphasis weight)

-- Jesus' Love

3) “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” **Lu 23:34** MERCY

2) “Today you will be with men in paradise” **Lu 23:43** GRACE

3) “Woman, behold thy son, son behold thy mother” **Jn. 19:26** AFFECTION

--Jesus' Trust

6) “It is Finished” **Jn. 19:30** PURPOSE

7) “Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit” **Lu. 23:36** TRUST

Who can NOT remember, respect, revere and rejoice in a Savior like that!?!?

Okay, that is our Jesus on the cross. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7. That is real. What are you going to do with it?

His sacrifice ought to be reflected in every single element of our lives... purpose, planning...

But with all focus, adoration and reflection in His memorial

I Corinthians 11

(v23) *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes”*

(v28) – *“But each man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*