

Remembering

“Do this in remembrance of Me”

Foundation

Bible passage: 1 Cor 11.23-25

The disciples of Jesus ate some amazing meals with Him over the three years He was with them, from the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee to the fish barbecue on the banks of the sea of Galilee after the resurrection. But the most sobering meal was the one He ate with just the 12 disciples on the evening before one of them betrayed Him, another denied Him and the rest deserted Him and He was put to death. John spends more than a fifth of his gospel describing things that happened at that meal, which is known as The Last Supper, but he didn't include something which the other three gospels did, the sharing of bread and wine.

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

In many ways it was a typical Passover Meal celebrated by the people of Israel every year. But Jesus gave it a new meaning and significance when he handed round the bread and then the cup (for the second time) after the meal. In 1 Corinthians the Apostle Paul explains how the early Christians received and passed on the memory of what had happened.

*For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this **in remembrance of me.**” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of me.**” (1 Cor 11.23-25)*



Paul writes about how the early Christians did what Jesus told them to do and shows it was known as The Lord's Supper (v20). Elsewhere he describes taking part in the meal as having communion (*koinonia*), meaning fellowship, with the Lord. Churches today might also call it Breaking Bread or the Eucharist.

In Churches all over the world people break bread and share wine to remember Jesus just as He told His first disciples nearly 2,000 years ago. In doing so we are remembering all the amazing things Jesus did and said, but especially what He did at The Last Supper. But the bread and wine are especially meant to remind us of Jesus death, His body broken and blood shed. Paul goes on to write: *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

Therefore, remembering Jesus at the Lord's Supper is more than just reminding ourselves that it happened, and certainly more than just reading about some past event in a history book. Remembering here means to “proclaim”, that is declare, announce Jesus' death. It is also more than just looking back, it is meant to make us stop and think about why Jesus died and what that means for us today, and to look forward to the fact that He will come again.



Jesus told His disciples to share bread and wine in remembrance of Him and to proclaim His death until he comes.