

The Truth That Changed The World And Redefined Grace And Mercy

The final answer to history's questions:

- Abraham
Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21, 17:1-9
- Passover
Exodus 12:1-13:16
- Moses
Exodus 19, 24, 34
- David
2 Samuel 7:8-17
- Jesus ended all **TRADITIONS** with the **TRUTH**.
Mark 14:12-31

Tradition: **WHAT WE DO**

Truth: **WHAT JESUS DID**

Giving new weight to old terms:

Grace: **GETTING WHAT WE COULD NEVER DESERVE**

Mercy: **NOT GETTING WHAT WE DO DESERVE**

One way or another... Jesus has to die:

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of November 10, 2019

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Chris mentioned his experience taking Communion as a kid and how the historical significance of Passover and Communion were not explained to him. Do you have any memories or experiences of taking Communion during your childhood?

2. This weekend, Chris set up a Passover meal (Seder) and described how each item represents part of the slavery story in Egypt. What were your thoughts as Chris explained the Seder meal? How might knowing the significance of the Seder meal better help someone understand Communion?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. As we heard in the sermon, Jesus initiated the first Communion knowing Judas would betray Him, the disciples would desert Him and Peter would deny Him. In John 13:1-17, we see the events leading up to the Passover meal (first Communion). What choices and actions do you see Jesus making in response to the knowledge that He is about to be betrayed, abandoned and crucified by those closest to Him?

John 13:1-17 (NIV – New International Version) - It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. ¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

If you had been sitting around the table with the disciples, what do you think your response would have been to what you just witnessed?

How might this passage give us insight into what Jesus thinks about us?

2. As Christians, we participate in Communion to help us remember Jesus' sacrifice. Paul gives the church in Corinth more detailed instructions for taking Communion, including some important things to keep in mind during this time of remembrance. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 and write down anything that stands out to you.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 (NIV – New International Version) - For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

In verse 28, we see that God's judgment is one reason Paul instructs us to examine ourselves. What do you think of when you hear the term "self-examination"?

How might self-examination grow someone's appreciation for the gift of God's grace and mercy?

Since we all respond in different ways, is self-examination something that comes easily to you or is it more of a struggle?

3. Taking Communion is about remembering what Jesus accomplished through His death on the cross and His resurrection. It's through this sacrifice that God's grace and mercy are made available to us. After reading through the verses below, what else is available to us because of His sacrifice?

(NIV – New International Version)

Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Colossians 1:13-14 - For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Which one of these is most encouraging to you? Which one are you most likely to forget?

As you think about what it cost Jesus to make these benefits available to you, take a moment to thank Him for paying the price.

This week we will be taking Communion together as a Life Group. At North Coast we like to celebrate Communion where church happens - in our Life Groups. In preparation for that, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV – New International Version) - For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,²⁴ 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."²⁵ 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."²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's message and study, what's most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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