



Week 43: Seeing Jesus in the Lord's Supper

Scripture: (same texts as last week) Matthew 22:1-14, 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 14:15-24, 22:7-23, John 6:53-58, 13:1-17, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, 11:17-34

Devotional:

What is our attitude as we approach the Lord's Table? Often we connect this with the 1 Corinthians 11 call to "examine ourselves" before eating the bread and drinking the cup. In context, Paul is especially pointing us to examine how we are being in relationship to each other as Christ's body. This is a proper thing for any believer to do as they approach the Lord's Table. However, at least in my experience, this isn't typically how we've approached this self-examination. The examination looks more like this - I've examined my heart and life, and concluded nothing is so bad there to prevent my coming to the Table. Or, I examined my life and determined things are too bad for me to come to the Table. The problem is this essentially makes the examination about what gives me the *right* to be at the Table. How easy it is for me to make approaching and partaking at the Lord's Table a matter of my own doing.

Instead, I would offer that my self-examination and attitude as I approach the Lord's Table be centered on the questions – **Am I hungry? Am I thirsty?** The physical elements Jesus gives for this sacrament point to these things – bread for hunger and the cup for thirst. But we believe that more than a physical exchange is taking place, these things point to a deeper, spiritual reality. We are spiritually fed and refreshed at the Table. Does Jesus talk about this type of spiritual hunger or thirst anywhere else in Scripture?

My recent reflections on the sacrament have drawn me to the fourth beatitude of Matthew 5. "Blessed are those who *hunger* and *thirst* for righteousness, for they will be filled." Jesus doesn't say, "Blessed are the righteous, for they will be filled," but those who *hunger* and *thirst* for righteousness. There is an immediate admission here of my lack of righteousness. But this attitude also expresses a deep longing to be righteous, a

longing as intense as we'd have for water when dying of thirst. We'd dig in the mud, follow treacherous mountain trails, and drink from the filthiest stream if it meant our life would be preserved. Do I have that kind of longing for righteousness in my life? And do I see that at the Lord's Table we are joyously experiencing this longing satisfied? As we come to the Lord's Table we are saying, "We know where to go for righteousness! We are coming to the only one who gives us life!" At the table we come to the one who says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Are you hungry? Are you thirsty? Jesus Christ has come so you can be filled.

Song

"There Is a Redeemer"



Activity

Pray each day for God to fill you with the righteousness of Christ.

Memory Verse:

Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Questions to reflect on this week:

- How have I seen Jesus in the **B**ible?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **L**ove I show toward God/others?
- How have I seen Jesus in **E**arth he's created?
- How have I seen Jesus in **P**rayer?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **O**thers he's placed before me?

[**BLEPO**: means "to see" in Greek]

Seeing Jesus is believing in Him!



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