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STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 04.06.25

SUMMARY

What are the biblical benefits of the Lord's Supper? As we consider Matthew 26:17-29, it's important to note the context of the events unfolding. Jesus and his disciples observe the Passover meal, commemorating the Lord's deliverance of his people from their oppressors in Egypt. In this context, two other significant things occur; first, Jesus reveals that Judas will betray Jesus, and second, Jesus uses this occasion to institute the Lord's Supper. Jesus is using the backdrop of the Passover—a meal commemorating the exodus—to foretell the ultimate exodus, where Jesus, with his body and blood, would lead *his* people away from the greatest oppressor they will ever know—sin and death. It's not by coincidence that we read about Judas being revealed as the betrayer in the context of the Lord's Supper, as this is a meal that is only effectual for his people—those who believe in the saving work of Jesus. The meal the Lord instituted that night points to belonging. The Lord's Supper reveals our understanding and need of Christ. It allows us to meditate affectionately on his death and sufferings which delivered us from our death; it stirs our hearts to love his grace all the more. The Lord's Supper allows us to express sorrow for our sins and then commune with Christ, by his merit, to know the forgiveness of our sins and his covenant love for us. The disciples came to understand all these benefits of the Lord's Supper as the Church began to go forth into all nations, but even more, they were able to share in these benefits with one another. The disciples of Jesus would soon learn that communion with Christ and each other through Christ—irrespective of culture or nationality—provides a mystical union far beyond any other. The Church is in union with Christ and, therefore, in an unbreakable union with one another.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Matthew 26:17-29.

What things do you contemplate as you observe the Lord's Supper? Based on what was revealed in today's passage, are there elements to the Lord's Supper that you believe deserve greater attention?

Knowing that all believers are united in Christ, how should this shape your interactions with any fellow believer? How do the sufferings and death of Jesus affect our relationship with one another?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.