

'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'

The Life of Christ Series

The Gospel of Luke

The Memorial

Jacob anointed a *pillar* at Bethel to remember where He met with God. Moses left a memorial *holiday* for Israel to remember – *Passover*. Joshua piled up a memorial *heap of 12 stones* in the Jordan River as he and Israel entered the Promised Land. Other spiritual leaders also left us simple reminders of great events by God for His people to remember His power, His compassion, and grace toward His own.

The ultimate symbolic biblical memorial for God's people is the one in front of many Bible-believing churches like CBF – the *cross*. And periodically, on very special days like today, we include trays of broken bread and cups of grape drink to remind us of the awesome sacrifice done on that cross by the Son of God. On spiritual *memorial days* like today, we look upon, handle, and take into our bodies the two special symbols of Jesus' holy, sinless Person (*the matzah or unleavened bread pieces*) and His atoning blood sacrifice (*the cup of grape drink reminding us of His shed blood*). This precious remembrance of Who took our place on that cross and what it cost Him to redeem us, is not a repetition of what He did, nor is it a continuance of the once for all, forever sacrifice He paid on our behalf (*Hebrews 10:11-18*).

This ordinance (*not 'sacrament' / a grace imparting activity, as Roman Catholicism heretically teaches*) is exactly what Christ told the Apostle Paul to call it in the primary New Testament teaching on communion '*a remembrance of Me*' (*1 Corinthians 11:23-32*). No other remembrances were repetitions of the event they symbolize: *Passover* didn't require another exodus from Egypt; *Joshua's stones* didn't mean Israel had to leave Canaan and reenter it; etc. If God calls something a remembrance, it doesn't need to be reenacted, nor does *remembering* carry the same value as the original event it symbolizes.

This is why Catholics are guilty of serious error in teaching that receiving the host at mass is the same thing as receiving Jesus Christ – symbols don't save, they only remind people already saved by faith of Who and what saved them – we are saved by grace alone through faith in what Jesus actually did on the cross for us, NOT symbols of it!

As we who have repented of our sin, turned in faith to Jesus Christ, and welcomed Him into our heart and life as Savior and Lord, we remember the day He did it and the day we believed it. Our minds are humbled, our hearts are moved, and our spirits are revived, but we are not saved or resaved or anything of the sort, for only people who are already saved and living in obedience, are welcome to partake of it (*1 Corinthians 11:27-30*). If the Lord's communion saved people, there certainly would be no warning against taking it as you see in these verses! Communion doesn't save, but for the disciple of Christ who partakes it is an excellent time to renew our commitment to live sacrificially for Him Who sacrificially died for us on the cross (*Romans 12:1-2*).

Just as baptism by immersion is an absolutely crucial, visible evidence that you truly are saved, but doesn't save you; likewise communion, as a remembrance is an essential outer declaration that you are truly trying to live in obedience to Jesus as Lord, but it doesn't save you. If you have been truly *born again* but haven't been baptized by immersion, you should be. If you love the Lord and are a faithful disciple of His, you should partake of communion. But if you aren't certain that you have sincerely turned to Jesus for salvation – you should make sure of that by asking Him to forgive you and come into you today (*Romans 10:9-13*).

If you do, He will gladly come into you (*John 6:37*), not symbolically, but really, spiritually, immediately and forever (*1 John 5:11-12*). Communion is something you will do again and again in remembrance of Him, but receiving Him by faith is something you only need to do **once** for forever. PtL

‘This Means War!’
(Jesus re-enlists ‘the 12’ to active duty discipleship)
Luke 11:13-28

Synopsis: For about two months, the 12 have been inactive because of the spiritual slump they experienced at the end of the great Galilean ministry. They had become proud, prayerless, and powerless as seen in their inability to release a young boy from demonic possession. The slump degenerated during the journey south to Perea and Judea – divisiveness, sectarianism, hostility, and fruitlessness rendered them useless to Jesus for ministry. Finally, they came to Jesus asking Him to teach them to pray, which is where they had originally failed. Christ taught them more about prayer dependence on Him in all they do. Just in time, too – His enemies came looking for a fight and Jesus’ disciples needed to be strong, faithful and prayerful for the coming ferocious spiritual warfare on the way to the cross...

The Disciple’s Weapons
(Our might – Spirit-filled prayer vs. demonic assault)

“...If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask Him. And (Jesus) was casting out a demon and it was mute. So it was when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke and the multitudes marveled.” **11:13-14**

The Disciple’s Warfare
(Our mission – Spirit-filled strategy against invisible evil forces)

“But some of them said, “**He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.**” Others testing Him sought from Him a sign from heaven. But He, knowing their thoughts said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation and house divided against house falls. If Satan is also divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. **11:15-19**

But if **I cast out demons with the finger of God** surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace his goods are in peace. But when **a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoils.** He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. **11:20-23**

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came. And when he comes, he finds it **swept and put in order.** Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first **11:24-26**

The Disciple’s Work
(Our message – Spirit-filled focus on God’s Son & God’s Word)

“And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice saying to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts which nursed you!” But (Jesus) said, “**More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.**” **11:27-28**