

Remembered
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Luke 22:7–20 (ESV) — **7** Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. **8** So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” **9** They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” **10** He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters **11** and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ **12** And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” **13** And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. **14** And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. **15** And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” **17** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” **19** And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **20** And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Opening: Remembering is important. Just ask anyone who has ever missed paying a bill or filing your tax return on time. Do you have a system to help you remember things? Remember tying a string around a finger? We sometimes place things where we will see them. I had a former colleague who would toss papers on the floor in front of the door so he wouldn't forget them when he walked out. Now we have technology. I have an app on my phone that I use to help remember small tasks and many of us in our jobs seem to “live” by Outlook meeting reminders. [Illustration: The “Doorway Effect”]¹

What about remembering truly important things? Past generations wrote the dates of marriages, births, and deaths in the front flyleaf of family Bibles. We put pictures in frames and now we thumb through pictures and videos on our phones. I have carefully curated hours of family videos on multiple hard drives.

Remembering is important. Memories can make us smile or make us cry. They remind us of our past and can encourage us about our future. Traumatic memories can bring pain, but processing them correctly can bring healing. Family memories are important. Emory University's Dr. Robyn Fivush Ph.D. writes that sharing family memories and stories, “...*helps build strong families and resilient children...research...shows that children who know family stories are more confident, have higher self-esteem, ...better social relationships with*

their peers, and better relationships with their parents.” She concludes, “...[T]o be human is to share stories, and through these stories to create a sense of who we are in the past, in the present and preparing us to cope with the future.”ⁱⁱ

Passing down family memories and stories is not only healthy it's biblical! **Deuteronomy 6:5–7 (ESV) — 5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

God provided the rainbow as a reminder that He would never again flood the whole earth. He designated that His people build monuments, observe festivals, and perform rituals to remember His great love for us, and His covenant with us. He gave us the ultimate way to remember what is important: His written word, Holy Scripture.

In His last Passover meal with His disciples just before His crucifixion, Jesus provided them and future followers with a memorable illustration of His sacrifice for mankind. Using the simple everyday elements of supper, Jesus symbolized His shed blood and broken body then commanded His people to turn this “last supper” into the “Lord’s Supper” and do it “in remembrance” of His sacrifice.

Truth that should change us: Jesus paid it all...don't forget that!

- In verses seven through thirteen we see Jesus in calm control of the activity leading up to this pivotal last meal where He would give His disciples His “last testament” before surrendering to His crucifixion.
- Nothing was left to chance as He delegated the preparations for this last Passover meal to Peter and John. The preparation is also a picture of the ministry He would soon delegate to these two key disciples.
- The Passover meal was a picture of His voluntary submission to a painful death as the perfect Passover Lamb Who would take away the sins of the world. As the blood on the doorposts “covered” the firstborn of Israel, the blood that stained the cross of Christ still “covers” those who trust in Him.
- Given what the disciples had seen and what they would experience why would they need to be reminded of Jesus’ painful death as our sacrifice?
- Why would WE need a reminder of the story of Good Friday?
- The “prince of preachers” Charles Spurgeon preached a sermon in 1855 on the “Remembrance of Christ.” His words still resonate today.
- Spurgeon wrote about why fallible humans can forget the cross of Christ: *“Do you not find yourselves forgetful of Jesus?...Some earthly business engrosses your attention when you should have your eye steadily fixed upon the cross. It is the incessant round of world, world, world; the constant din of earth, earth, earth, that takes away the soul from Christ. Oh! my friends, is it not too sadly true that we can recollect anything but*

*Christ, and forget nothing so easy as him whom we ought to remember?*ⁱⁱⁱ
[What beautiful ancient prose!]

- Spurgeon says the “heart” of the matter of why we forget about Jesus, is literally the “heart:” “...[D]eceitful above all things and desperately wicked.” *This is the reason why I am forgetful of Christ...We forget Christ because there are so many other things around us to attract our attention.*^{iv}
- Jesus commanded that we observe His supper because He knows our hearts and our heads will conspire to distract us from looking at His cross.
- Jesus called on His followers to make this a regular and frequent practice: **1 Corinthians 11:26 (ESV) — 26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
- This meal is all about symbols that remind us of truth. The original Passover meal was rich with symbolism with each food item causing the Israelites to recall something important. In this “last” supper, Jesus assigns new meaning to the bread and wine looking ahead to His death.
- The crisp, unleavened bread represented His sinless broken body.
- The wine was to remind us of His shed blood.
- Where could you find better symbols as reminders than everyday food?
- Spurgeon: “[H]ere is the simple bread and wine. He must have no memory at all who cannot remember that he has eaten bread, and that he has been drinking wine...Bread broken—so was your Saviour broken...Wine poured out, the pressed juice of the grape—so was your Saviour crushed under the foot of divine justice: his blood is your sweetest wine. Wine to cheer your heart—so does the blood of Jesus. Wine to strengthen and invigorate you—so does the blood of the mighty sacrifice. Oh! make that bread and wine to your souls tonight a sweet and blessed help of remembrance of that dear Man who once on Calvary died.”
- So just what do we need to be reminded of? In verse 20, Jesus said, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”^v
- That new covenant promises a “new heart” and the indwelling of His Holy Spirit (Ez.36:26–27.) It is a covenant to “forgive [our] iniquity, and remember [our] sin no more” (Jer.31:34.) It’s ironic that He calls us to remember His sacrifice as He promises to FORGET our sins!
- Remembering is important for followers of Christ and we need reminders.
- In addition to treasuring the remembrance of the Lord’s Supper, how can we be more intentional in reminding ourselves of what Jesus did for us?
- The first great way to be reminded is reading His word daily! We don’t just read the Bible for knowledge and guidance; it’s there to “warm our hearts.”
- Psalm 103 is a great passage that helps us remember the “benefits” of trusting Jesus. Here are some “highlights:” ² *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,* ³ *who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,* ⁴ *who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,* ⁵ *who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.* ⁸ *The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.* ¹⁰ *He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. ^{vi}

- Symbols can help us remember the love and sacrifice of Christ.
- While we should be careful not to see “icons” as objects of worship, symbols can be great reminders.
- Author Jon Acuff says symbols should be “*simple, personal, and visible.*” That sounds a lot like Jesus’ symbols of bread and wine!
- Acuff uses the example of the Lance Armstrong “Livestrong” bracelets. They were simple, visible, but most importantly they were personal. He writes, “*It...meant something important to the person wearing it. If you asked about the bracelet, people would say things like, “I wear this to support cancer research because my mom lost her life far too young.*”^{vii}
- Your reminder of Jesus might be a necklace with the empty cross. It might be a framed scripture verse hung where you see it easily. Perhaps you jotted a promise from scripture on a sticky note and put it on your mirror.
- Whatever your method, if it causes you to pause from the chaos of daily life and ponder the saving sacrifice of Christ and His love for you, then you are doing that “in remembrance of Him.”
- I’ve never been a tattoo person, but I don’t judge people who are. In fact, I’ve developed a new respect for what a tattoo can mean. When you see a tattoo on the underside (inside) of someone’s wrist, it’s not there to make a statement to the world; it’s there to remind that person. I know and love two wonderful Christian young women who have a simple tattoo on the inside of their wrist specifically to remind them of Jesus and His love.
- Now, don’t tell your spouse, “See, Jesus wants me to get a tattoo!” On the other hand, if it is in remembrance of Him...maybe you should go for it! 😊

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- Remembering is important in life and especially life “in Christ.”
- That’s why Jesus commanded, “*Do this in remembrance of me.*”
- I hope this study gives us all a new appreciation for the Lord’s Supper!
- I also hope it motivates us to a more intentional “remembrance” of Jesus.
- One last Spurgeon quote as I close: “*Think of the pierced hands and the bleeding side; think of the scorching sun, and then the entire darkness; remember the broiling fever and the dread thirst; think of the death shriek, “It is finished!” ...This is the object of memory. Let us never forget Christ. I beseech you, for the love of Jesus, let him have the chief place in your memories. Let not the pearl of great price be dropped from your careless hand into the dark ocean of oblivion.*”^{viii}
- Jesus paid it all! This week, let’s work hard not to forget that!

ⁱ The Doorway Effect: Why Do We Forget What We Were Supposed To Do After We Enter a Room? - *Psychologists believe that walking through a door and entering another room creates a “mental blockage” in the brain, meaning that walking through open doors resets memory to make room for a new episode to emerge. This is generally referred to as the doorway effect.*

<https://www.scienceabc.com/humans/doorway-effect-why-we-forget-what-we-were-supposed-do-after-we-enter-room.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-stories-our-lives/201610/family-stories-the-birth-humanity>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-remembrance-of-christ/#flipbook/>

^{iv} *ibid*

^v [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:20). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^{vi} [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 103:8–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^{vii} Acuff, Jon. Soundtracks (p. 203). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

^{viii} <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-remembrance-of-christ/#flipbook/>