

Maundy Thursday 2019

“Do this, in remembrance of me”

Luke 22:1-65

On the night he was betrayed... that **fateful** night...

...the **awful** night – when everyone **abandoned** him...

when Peter who had proclaimed he was ready to **die** with Jesus – die **for** Jesus... denied even **knowing** him...!

on **this** night... when Judas betrayed Jesus with a **kiss** – for the price of an **ox** at the **temple** – that’s **all**... “the one I **kiss** – **that’s** the one – take **him!**”

On **this** night - when he would surrender to his Father’s will in the **garden**... wrestling with the **enormity** of what lay before him... and asking the Father if there was any other way... on **this** night....

On **this** night - **before** all that...

He would leave his disciples with a **meal**...

The **last** Supper

The **Lord’s** Supper....

... the meal which forever **transformed** and indeed **replaced** the **Passover**

a meal set in the **context** of the Passover – but a Passover Jesus and his disciples that night, did not in fact **celebrate**...

for when Jesus took the **bread** of the **Passover** – the bread that the Passover leader **always** took...

he said the **wrong words**...

taking bread – the **father** of the family – or the **teacher** – the **rabbi** in the case of a community - would take bread and remind the participants how they left Egypt in a **hurry without** yeast and had **unleavened bread**...

but on **this** night Jesus took bread and gave it to his disciples and said *this is **my body** given **for you**, do this in **remembrance of me***

and when he took the **cup** he also had **radically** different words to say - *‘This cup is the **new covenant** in my **blood**, which is **poured out for you**.*

And we see from these words how Jesus understood his impending death...

He understood that he would be **giving** his **body**.... Laying it down.... ‘for **you**’ he said – **sacrificial language**...

He would die in our **place**... as our **substitute**... just like that lamb had done in the Passover 2,000 years before... just as the animal slaughtered for sin after you had symbolically transferred your sins to it... would die in your **place**

Jesus – died, **instead of you... FOR** you!

And the **cup** – a **new covenant**... the new covenant spoken of by the **prophets** – where sin would be **forgiven** and remembered no **more**... where **knowledge** of God's **will** would be written on people's **hearts**... a covenant ratified by the **shedding of blood** – the shedding of **Jesus'** blood – the **innocent** for the **guilty**... a shedding of **blood** which would mean the **forgiveness** of **sins**... //

Jesus **knew** what his death would be about...

And he transformed the Passover so that instead of taking people back to **Egypt** to remember God's great rescue **there**, this meal now would forever take people back to the **cross** to remember that so much **greater** rescue, **there!** //

But let me ask you – Jesus said 'do this in **remembrance** of me'...

...do you think there was a chance we'd ever **forget**?

Would we **forget** the extent of his love poured **out**?

Would we **forget** what we **went** through for us?

Would we **forget** the sacrifice? ///

Oh yes!! We **would!**

We would **forget**.

Israel **forgot**

Within **5 minutes**... Israel **forgot** that God rescued them from Egypt and instead they made a golden **calf** and bowed **down to** and worshipped it!!

Israel **forgot** and failed to trust that having **rescued** them **powerfully** from **Egypt**, he could **just** as powerfully, bring them **across** the Jordan and into the promised land, driving out the **inhabitants**

Israel **forgot** why they had been rescued and **failed** to be **God's distinctively different people!** //

Would **we forget**?

Yes. We would **forget**.

We would so easily think... that we **earn** our **forgiveness** – or **deserve it**...

we so **easily** think our faith is all about what we do for **him** and not what **he** has done for **us**

...we so **easily** think that it wasn't such a big **deal** and therefore treat God **lightly** and not take **Jesus** or his death for us, **seriously**...

we so **easily** forget that we have been **rescued**, and go on living for **ourselves** and doing our own **thing**.... //

...so **do this**, in **remembrance** of me

remembrance of my **love**

my **sacrifice**

in remembrance of my **purpose** – to make you my **holy blameless children...** to form a people of God to be the **light** of the **world...** //

in this meal which we are about to share

we look **back** to the cross – **all** of **him** and **none** of **us**

we look **around** at one **another** – and we remember our **connectedness** - our **unity** – each one of us **underserving** – but brought together as the family of God by the **sacrifice** of our **Saviour**

and

we look **forward**... we look forward to that time when we will feast with our **Saviour** – our **precious Jesus** - and with one **another** in **eternity**... and **for eternity**. /

Every time we put out our empty hand – we recall – **none** of **us** – **all** of **him**...

Every time we take the **wine** – we recall – his **blood** – **that's** what my forgiveness **cost** – **that's** what it took, to **win** me **back** to **God**... //

On the night he was **betrayed** – on **this** night – Jesus took **bread** and when he had given thanks, he gave it to his disciples saying “take, **eat** – this is my **body** – **do** this in remembrance of **me**”

And then he took the **cup** saying – “this is the new **covenant** in my **blood** poured out for **many**, for the **forgiveness** of **sins**...”

“Do this as **often** as you drink it - in remembrance of me...” ///

And **never** forget!