

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: The Last Supper (pt. 2)

Lesson Goals: Students should be exposed to the basic differences in the ways churches have understood the Lord's Supper throughout history.

Question: What does your church call the communion service? How often do celebrate it? Why do we do this?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Matthew 26:17-35

Eucharist, breaking of bread, table of the Lord, communion, the Lord's supper, Mass, Last Supper:

4 Verbs used in the institution of the Lord's Supper:

1. Taken
2. Blessed
3. Broken
4. Given

Similar to the verbs used in the Feeding of the 5,000.

Remember this when we get to the resurrection stories in a couple of weeks as well.

Some (Henri Nouwen) have suggested that these verbs are indicative of the life of discipleship as well. This is what God does with us when we surrender to Him and seek to follow Him with our lives.

4 sayings during the Last Supper:

1. This is my body
 - How do we understand this teaching?
 - (1) Literally - Transubstantiation (trans = "cross"; substance)
during communion, when the priest says "this is my body" the elements actually become transformed into the actual body and blood of Christ.
 - (2) Literally - Consubstantiation (con = "with"; substance)
bread and wine remain the same but that in, around and through it there is present the actual body and blood of Christ
 - (3) Spiritually - Spiritual presence of Christ
God meets us in the bread and the wine, but it is through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit unites us with Christ and bridges the gap between heaven and earth.
 - (4) Metaphorically - Memorial
The elements are a memorial of the life and death of Christ
2. Do this in remembrance of me
just like in the Passover, you remembered your Redemption, remember and "re-live" your forgiveness in Christ
3. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many - this is a new period in salvation history - the fulfillment of the OT

4. I will never drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God - not only look back to the past at his death but look forward to his coming (the coming of the kingdom in its fulfillment)

There is an emphasis on the horror and gloom of the cross. In all of history, there is no other event so horrific or so glorious as the crucifixion of Christ.

The Lord's Supper communicates:

1. We are Christians
2. We are united
3. Humility - recognizing that our sins made the cross necessary ("I need a Savior")

How should we prepare for the Lord's Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Self examination

This should lead us to confession

Receiving God's discipline - it is for our good to shape us

Humility (placing others first)

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Eucharist
- What were the four verbs Jesus used in the Last Supper?