

PALM SUNDAY

Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Valley Church

March 30 & April 2, 2023
Body, Blood and Baptism

Introduction:

Acts 2:42-47

WHY...do we Celebrate Communion?

Understanding 1 Corinthians 11:17-30

Three Reasons We Celebrate Communion:

1. To remember the sacrifice of _____

“Do this in remembrance of me...”

We remember because we are sometimes forgetful, distracted & doubtful people.

2. To reinforce that we are under a New _____

“This cup is the New Covenant in my blood...”

We reinforce so we don't put ourselves under Law and legalism.

3. To rehearse the _____ of the Gospel

“Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes...”

We rehearse because it reminds us that Jesus has made us permanently clean & close to God.

The Big Idea:

Communion is a celebration of the most central elements of the Gospel. We do it to remember, reinforce and rehearse. It is not a ritual, but a **revelation** of God's unwavering commitment to you!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. As we head into Easter season, how wonderful to celebrate communion and baptism together! As a group, talk about why it is so critical to understand the WHY behind the WHAT of our beliefs and practices...

Ponderings:

2. Communion can so easily become a ritual or routine rather than a revelation of God's unwavering commitment to us. In what other rituals or practices of Christian faith have you found yourself merely "going through the motions?" Why does "going through the motions" seem to be a struggle for all of us at times?
3. Read **Acts 2:42-47** as a group. Based on this "snapshot" of the early church at its best, what qualities are congruent with how many churches function today, and which qualities (if any) have significantly morphed or vanished from many churches and why?
4. What were your past personal experiences with communion like? Could you relate to what Pastor Jeremy said about feeling like maybe you should "let the plate pass" or ruthlessly "examine yourself" before you participated in the Lord's Supper? Share about those experiences...
5. Was there anything from **1 Corinthians 11:17-30** that helped you understand these often mischaracterized verses of Scripture in their context? Moving forward, how might the communion celebration become more than a ritual...but instead a revelation each time you partake?

Promptings:

6. If you could go back and speak to the "you" you were as a young child, what would you want that "you" to know about God that you didn't learn until much later in life?

Who are you currently influencing to build a more Biblical, accurate picture of Jesus and Christianity in their lives? Close in prayer for those people, praying they will have a greater openness to the real Jesus of the Scripture – full of grace and truth...