

S.M. Jan 7, 79 A.M.
This year - (Blackburn)

HE TOOK THE CUP

I Cor. 11:25

INTRODUCTION:

Today we observe an important ordinance in the church - mainly, the Lord's Supper. It would do well for us to once again think of the meaning of this supper. And to seek to examine the contents of it.

The Bible tells us that Jesus gathered together his Disciples and when he had given thanks in V. 24, he break bread, take eat, this is my body which is broken for you. With the simple words - "this do in remembrance of me."

V. 25 - After the same manner, he took the cup, and when he had supped saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood. This do in as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.) But as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup - ye do show the Lord's death til he comes.

The emphasis this morning that I want you to get -- is that he took the cup. And in that cup, I would like for us to examine the liquid. Just what would that cup contain. And what was there.

I read a story told by (James Blackburn) About the truth found in the light - as you look into a diamond. He said that Dr. Ernest Parson told them in 1939 that a diamond breaks into all the colors of the rainbow. So that people viewing it from different angles - see different colors. One may declare

the color is red. Another may argue it is blue. But the third person will insist that it is yellow. And yet another, will be sure to say that the color is green.

Now their dispute may be so violent that they may even fight, over what they see.

In truth, each is right. To declare what he sees - and each is wrong to deny what the others see.

No man knows all the truth - only God knows that. Paul one time wrote, I Cor. 13:12 - "now we see through a glass darkened, but then face to face, but then I know in part - but then shall I know them also as I am known." Now as long as we are in the flesh, we are going to be limited in our vision and our understanding. We live in an environment that is restricted by our experiences. We see the diamond in different opinions and interpretations. In God, all the truth is one. And he is the pure light. But in God we come to know even as he knows us.

Down through the centuries, men, Christians have found different meanings in the Lord's Supper. We are thankful for what witnesses others have found. But also, there are some things that draw us together. As we hold up the Master's cup today, there are some who would claim all different colors. As they look at that Last Supper in the Upper Room.

Jesus used the figure of the cup as a symbol of his suffering. When James and John asked for the highest seats in the Kingdom - Jesus replied, Matt. 20:22, "are you able to drink of the cup which I must drink, and be baptized with the baptism of all, I am baptized."

Later, in Gethsemane, he prayed Matt. 26:39 - "Father, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will but thy will be done."

When we reach for this cup today, that little vessel already has deep meaning for Jesus. And he puts the meaning in it. Let us read again - V. 23-26.

Now let me ask you, what do you see in the cup. As Dr. Parsons said - different people see different colors.

I. GOLD

We will declare that this stands for something valuable in his memory. I think if we took that to symbolize memory today, we can easily see why Jesus said - "this do in remembrance of me." The observance of the Lord's Supper is act of remembering. A memorial to Jesus. Isaiah 2:7 - the prophet said the land was filled with silver and gold. And this we can understand. For we have given friends sometime a souvenir - we have brought them back some little token. And it is something that will help them to remember that occasion and that experience that we are sharing.

The desire to be remembered is natural and valid. What Jesus gave to the 12 and to all of us, who would come after them, what could he do that we might remember. Now Jesus could have build a pyramid. He could have built a great statue. He could have given each of his followers a little golden cross to wear. He could have given them a number of things. And said, now this is the thing that you remember me by.

But as we search for that cup that he used that night - it is a great story and it is of real value. I wonder what happened to the cup that he did use. Did some of the disciples find it. It would be something to behold. And people would use it as magic. But Jesus did not leave us anything like that.

But Jesus did leave us something that we could do in his memory.

And I know sometimes, you have wondered - if he meant for us to think of him everytime we take a bite of bread and eat it. No, but I am glad that he said - when you gather together for worship in the church. Somehow that seems to be the right place and the right time to keep his supper.

Now this is easy to do. It is just some bread and it is a cup. And they both are very much like his suffering. His life was squeezed out for us. The juice of his life was taken. And as we are nourished by bread and drink, we are sustained by his sacrifice. I think this is an easy memorial to remember. We don't like to think of suffering and the cross. It is not a pretty thing. But there it is, as you look in that cup - there is gold.

II. BLUE

This stands for (faithfulness). You have heard the expression "true blue". So and so is true blue. They mean that there is a person superior in obedience and faithfulness, and loyalty. And in true blue, we find that Jesus said, as oft as ye do this. We ought to be true blue Christians and in observing this, it ought to be something that we desire. Something we look forward too at every opportunity in our church.

Numbers 4:6-11 tells something about the blue in God's tabernacle. How things were fixed and how the parts were died.

Listen, Jesus is the example - he was true blue to his Father all the way through. What Jesus knew was right, he declared. Also, some people did not like it and eventually they killed him. He could have not escaped suffering - he was not a man to run. When some Greeks came to him and tempted him, and Jesus said, now my hour. What shall I say, my soul is troubled. Father, save me from this hour. But for this cause, came I unto this hour. John 12:27. In John 9:4 - I must work the work of him that sent me.

Mark 14:36 - the will of God was foremost in his life. Not mine but thine, be done. Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same as my brother, my sister, and my mother. Mark 3:35.

With his dying breath Jesus quoted Psalms 31:5. Into thy hands I commit my spirit.

I'm not sure how much Jesus understood the reasoning and the meaning of the cross. But to the fullest of his will - he was willing to be true blue to his Father. And this has set the pattern for Christian suffering. As Peter expressed it. I Peter 4:19. Suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls to him, in well doing as unto a faithful creator.

Don't you admire a person who stands by his convictions. And suffers out of loyalty to another. Or to a great cause. Both of these blues are in Jesus' cup. It is there because it calls for a deeper commitment to the loyalty of God.

III. RED

Sacrifice. Part of this red, (crimson) cord runs through the Scriptures. It started way back in the Old Testament. Numbers 19:2. They were to bring a red heffer and sacrifice that blood. Red stands for sacrifice. In the New Testament, it comes to be his blood. He says this is my body which is broken for you. This cup is the New Testament covenant in my blood which is shed for you.

Now any way you interpret this, here is the death and the suffering of Jesus for others. Like a lamb without faults or blemish, he was sacrificed in our place. He uses the figure of speech - that has clothed the mystery, and yet it really has to do something with the blood stained story of his love that was shed on the earth. Gen. 3:21. God clothed his people with the skin of an animal. Following the shed blood. Love was in that sacrifice. Love remains

in that sacrifice and without love, there is no sacrifice.

And sacrifice was not a new experience for Jesus. He wore that red all the way through his life. His example, he did not have a home with a wife and children. As a normal man wanted too. No, that joy was one of sacrifice. He made the better to do the will of his Father. John 4:34.

Think of the miracles of Jesus. Do you think they were just off the cuff. No, Jesus gave himself to those people who cured. The woman who slipped and touch the hem of his garment. The Scriptures say, immediately, knowing in himself. That virtue had gone out of him, and said as he turned about, who touched me. Mark 5:30. This gives you a clue to the nature of Jesus. And reveals the insight as to why people said, he is beside himself. Mark 3:21. He gave so much of himself away that he seemed to have so little left. But surely he has born our griefs, carried our sorrows, he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. Isaiah 53:4-5.

Jesus' life was not taken from him - he gave it freely. John 10:17, 18. Greater love hath no man than this but a man lay down his life for his friends. Jesus said on the eve of death, and by the death. Jesus transformed even his enemies.

Paul thinking about that in Rom. 5:7-8 said, for scarcely, a righteous man die for one. He might perhaps die for a good man. Some would even dare to do that, but God commanded his love for us while we were yet sinners. Christ died for us.

So there was red - sacrifice.

IV. PURPLE

Royalty or divinity. Purple. Judges 8:26. Purple was put on a king. Luke 16:19 - the rich man was clothed in purple. Mark 15:17 - Jesus was clothed with purple. This was royal color. And this was the anointed of Israel - the son of God.

Sometimes people wondered why Jesus stayed on the cross such a short time. One women said, how long was it. And some preacher told her it was six hours. She exclaimed - I have suffered from arthritis for 20 years. Knowing that she meant no blasphemy. But she really did not understand. It was not a matter of time. And it was not a matter of just a cross. Because thousands of crosses had been raised before this one. And taken down. But this cross was different, because the son of God was dying.

Men, I've watched people die in times of peace. Others have watched people die in times of war. People have watched individuals die by the executioner. But Mark 15:39 says, surely this man was the son of God. You can't stand before Jesus' cross without feeling that cursed is everyone, that hangeth upon the tree. Gal. 3:13.

That somehow God was there and deeply involved in that. As someone wrote,
I know not how that Calvary's cross, a world from sin to free, I only know it's
matchless love, has brought God's love to me.

Here was purple, a king. The king of kings, the Lord of Lords. Look in that cup and see if you don't see that purple. That royalty.

V. GREEN

This means (promise). It means (life). And this is something that many people have been late in seeing. It has been there all the time.

Paul said, as oft as ye drink this cup. Ye do show the Lord's death til he come. V. 26. That points to the future. The supper is not only a memorial to the past. But here is a promise to the future. And too often and too long have we observed the Lord's Supper like a funeral. As we come to weep over the dying Jesus. But here is a note that causes the action. Jesus is not dead, he is risen, and he is coming again. He said he would. I believe he will.

Look again at what he said that last night when he ate with his Disciples. Mark 14:25. "Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day I drink it new unto the kingdom of God." Now the supper that Jesus kept with his Disciples and asked us to keep - is only - in common everyday language an appetizer. To a (victory banquet). At which we shall share at his return. The person that holds this cup, is holding it until the real supper - the kind of thing that is important.

You know how it is when supper is ready. The children are impatient. They want to get a taste of that supper. You have to hold them until the meal is

Sometimes people pass out little appetizers to sort of tone things down.

Now this is a Scripture term to be earnest. Which is a token or a down-payment of more to come. It is a pledge and a promise. And Paul says this is like the earnestness Holy Spirit of promise which is an earnest of our inheritance. Now the Disciples were always hoping for the restoration of Israel. They wanted the glory to come in their time. After the Lord's resurrection, they still pushed Jesus and said, Lord, will you at this time restore him. They wanted Jesus - the glory to come down in their time. Even after the Lord's resurrection. They were hungry for this banquet. But Jesus reminded them - it is not for you to know the times nor the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. Acts 1:7. He told them that the day and hour not even the angels of Heaven knew. Only the Father. Matt. 24:36.

Jesus spoke language they could understand and that you can understand. Matt. 24:43. He said, he is going to come like a thief in the night, and it is going to be like one sitting on a throne. Separating sheep from goats 25:31. These are pictures of great truth. And Jesus is ahead of us as much as he is behind us. Without Jesus behind us and Jesus in the present, there will not be much in the future without Jesus. But it will be Jesus. It is his life and his victory. So we need to let him have his way. And when the angels blow their trumpets, and the bodies are lifted out of the grave. Our Lord Jesus will be in charge. He is likened as coming to a wedding feast. That sounds great. Rev. 19:9 - blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb. Here is one of the highest experiences of human joy that will be indescribable in our Lord's ultimate victory.

Now this is yet to come. No where in man's story is righteousness complete, or has God's complete victory been manifest. But it is coming. Now, that is what you get a taste of in this supper - in this cup. It is a promise it is a foretaste of Jesus' triumph. When the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever.

Rev. 11:15.

- D.P. Simon -

Last Night home (Mary Anne Williams) 22 supposed completed civil engineering degree due - Pen -
Not my Christmas but not far into new year 6 days - "Mother of this had to happen to
one of us I'm glad it's over, I can bear it better" - close knit family.

Green stands for promise. Green. And it is not yet complete.

Psalm 23:2 - It says he maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

That means something that is highly prosperous in condition. When green is absent, and the grass is burnt up. There is desolation. What awful days are in store. But green means that it is flourishing and it is fruitful.

He took the cup. As you take the cup today, will your memory become golden. Will your faithfulness become true blue. Will your sacrifice be as red and radiant as his blood. Will your devotion to his royalty and divinity be purple. And will the green which you visualize become a real hope of promise. This is what he left us.

And thinking of this, doesn't it make you want to love him. Doesn't it make you be inspired today by this color code - to see these hidden truths that are wrapped up in our blessed Lord.