

Sonoraville Baptist Church
Sunday, October 17, 2010 – 11:00 AM
Rev. Steve Skates, Pastor

A Life to Remember - Luke 22:14-20

Introduction: Once, a boy was visiting his uncle Jim for the first time on his farm. Jim, wanting to impress his nephew, said “*Watch this!*” and then he whistled and immediately, his dog began to herd the cattle into the corral. Then the dog latched the gate with her paw.

“Wow, that’s some dog you have there. What’s her name?” Uncle Jim thought, then asked, *“What do you call that red flower that smells good and has thorns?”* *“You mean a rose?”* *“That’s it!”* Jim turned to his wife. *“Hey Rose, what’s this dog’s name?”*

Sometimes our memory is not as good as it could be. I found this poem that describes this dilemma. Maybe you can relate:

*My forgetter's getting better but my rememberer is broke.
To you that may seem funny but to me, that is no joke.
For when I'm here I'm wondering if I really should be there.
And, when I try to think it through, I haven't got a prayer!
At times I put something away where it's safe, but, gee!
The person it is safest from, well, it's usually, me!
Yes, my forgetter's getting better while my rememberer is broke,
And it's driving me plumb crazy and that is not a joke.*

It has been said that there are really only 3 kinds of memory - good, bad and selective! I see some ladies punching your husbands on that one. But the truth is, we all tend to forget things. And since we’re all prone to forget things, it’s good that people have come up with all kinds of ways to help them remember: such as tying a string around their finger; or using post it notes, day planners, and calendar books, etc. Personally, I don’t know what I’d do without this calendar app on my phone. It gives me a ringtone reminder of every event I enter in. The only thing is, sometimes I forget to enter the event in!

Forgetfulness has even hit the church. This is especially true when it comes to commitments we make. Whether it’s in our attendance, our tithing or just keeping promises, when these things are forgotten or ignored, someone suffers, and someone else is left having to take up the slack. And with all this forgetfulness, it’s little wonder that we even tend to forget God and all that He has done for us. But God knew that we would be forgetful people, and that is why we need reminders. So throughout the Bible, God’s people are told to remember Him. **“Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there.” Deut. 24:18 (NIV)**

“Remember the wonders he has done.” Psalms 105:5 (NIV)

“Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.” Rev. 3:3 (NIV).

This morning, we’ll partake of one of the two ordinances of the church – the Lord’s Supper. The other is the ordinance of Baptism. Now an ordinance is an order or a command. You see the form of the word “*order*” in the word. In this case, our Lord has ordered or commanded that His church come together regularly and remember Him by partaking of the Lord’s Supper. Let’s read about it in Luke’s Gospel.

14 *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.*

15 *And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

16 *For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”*

17 *After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you.*

18 *For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

19 *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*

20 *In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. **Luke 22:14-20 (NIV)***

Now what exactly does Jesus want us to remember as we partake the Lord’s Supper? Well, first, we have to

understand that this first Lord's Supper took place during the Passover celebration which happened to be on the night before Christ was about to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world. His death would mark the end of the close fellowship He had shared with His disciples. Notice His words as He gathered them around the Passover table. He said, *"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."* **Luke 22:15 (NIV)** The phrase *"eagerly desired"* is interesting. In the original language the same word for desire (*epithumeo*) is used twice so literally, Jesus is saying, *"with desire I desire to eat this Passover with you...."*

Why would Jesus have such a burning *"double desire"* to eat this meal with His disciples? First, I believe Jesus desired that His disciples not miss the significance of this Passover meal.

You see, the Passover was an event in Jewish history which occurred when God's people were in bondage in Egypt. When they cried out to God for mercy and freedom, God heard their cries and sent Moses to lead them out from Egypt and into a land of their own which God had promised them. Moses appealed to Pharaoh to let God's people go, but he refused. So God then sent a series of plagues upon the land to convince Pharaoh – the last one being the death of each firstborn male child in the land. God told His people that if they wanted their firstborn male child to live and if they wanted to escape from Egyptian bondage, a sacrifice would have to be made. He told them to take the best lamb from their flock, sacrifice it, and smear its blood on the doorposts of their homes. Then, that night, as God's angel would come to each home to kill the firstborn male child; if it saw the blood of the lamb on the doorpost, it would pass over that home.

Because of that sacrifice, thousands of lives were spared, and the event became a cause of celebration for centuries. However, all those years, the Jews had only been celebrating a shadow of something better that was coming. Now, at this Passover celebration, the real thing was here! The true Lamb of God was standing before them and the real Passover was about to be celebrated. That is one reason Jesus so eagerly desired to eat this particular meal with His disciples.

But the other *"eager desire"* of Jesus on this night was that these men, whom He had loved and poured His life into for the past three years, would always have something to remember Him by. And I believe that double desire of Jesus carries over to us, His church. We are who Jesus came to give His life for. His desire is that we too would never forget Him. So for the next few minutes, let's focus on remembering the Lord.

In the movie, *"The Last Samurai,"* Tom Cruise plays an American soldier named Nathan Algren who travels to Japan to help the government put down an uprising led by a Samurai named Katsumoto. During the movie Algren and Katsumoto become friends and fellow warriors. In fact, Algren is with Katsumoto when he dies on the battlefield.

In the final scene, the young Japanese Emperor, who loved and was mentored by Katsumoto, asks Algren if he was with Katsumoto when he died. Algren says *"Yes."* Then the emperor asks him, *"Tell me how he died."* And Algren looks up and says, *"I will tell you how he lived."*

I believe when Jesus told us to, *"Do this in remembrance of me..."* He had more in mind than just remembering how He died. He wants us to also remember how He lived, for that's how we know how we are to live. So how did Jesus live? There are many things I could say here, but time won't allow us to cover everything. In fact, the Bible doesn't even contain the whole of Jesus' earthly life. But for us this morning, I want to mention four ways Jesus lived that we should all strive to remember and emulate. First:

1. He Lived a Humble Life

The most powerful, all knowing, ever present, co-creator of the universe – the one who was in every way like His Father God, was the humblest person who ever walked the face of the earth. If there ever was a person who had the right to live as though life was all about Him, it was Jesus. But instead, Jesus lived as though life was about everyone else. So as you partake of the Lord's Supper, let the bread and the cup remind you of His humility, and then remember that this is how He wants you to live. Secondly, let this Lord's Supper remind you that:

2. He Lived a Purposeful Life

The first section of Rick Warren's book *"The Purpose Driven Life"* is called, *"What On Earth Am I Here For?"* If anyone ever knew what on earth He was here for it was Jesus. It was something He understood even in His childhood.

When Mary and Joseph went looking for their boy Jesus in Jerusalem, they found Him sitting in the Temple courts, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. His mother asked Him why He had treated them this

way, and His response was, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2:49 NIV). Well, Jesus' earthly parents had no idea what He was talking about. They didn't understand His purpose, but even then, Jesus knew His purpose in life.

Later as He began His earthly ministry, Jesus had a showdown in the desert with the devil who tried to get Him to back down on His mission. But He had a purpose, and He was determined to fulfill it.

He went straight from that experience to the synagogue where He stood up in the middle of that synagogue and read from the prophet Isaiah who said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." He then told that congregation, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:18-21 (NIV).

Jesus lived with a purpose. He knew what He was here for. His parents couldn't get Him off track. His friends couldn't deter Him. And even Satan couldn't bribe Him.

In fact, when the time came for Jesus to go to Jerusalem and die on the cross, the Bible says, "He resolutely set out for Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51 NIV). Jesus knew His purpose in life was to pay the price God demanded for the forgiveness of sin so that He could provide a way for a sinful, guilty person like me to live eternally with God in heaven. Do you know your purpose? Jesus lived a humble life, a purposeful life, but also:

3. He Lived a Powerful Life

We might tend to forget this as we partake of these symbols that represent His death, but listen to what Jesus said about His life in John 10:18 (NIV). He said, "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again."

Jesus lived with all the power of heaven and earth at His disposal. He gave small demonstrations of that power as He turned water into wine, cast out demons, fed thousands with a little boy's lunch, calmed storms, walked on water, healed sicknesses, and even raised the dead back to life!

Jesus did these things to show us that He has the power to change our circumstances, to heal our bodies, to straighten out our paths, to see us through the storms of life, to provide for our needs, and yes, to give us eternal life.

Jesus lived a humble, purposeful, and powerful life, but most of all we need to let this Lord's Supper remind us that:

4. He Lived a Loving Life

Jesus lived a life of love that knew no bounds. Jesus loved the rich, the poor, the sick, the healthy, the black, the white, the old, the young, the sinner and the saint.

I believe the Apostle Paul had Jesus on his mind when he wrote God's definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13. Listen as I substitute the name of "Jesus" for the word "love."

Jesus is patient, Jesus is kind. Jesus does not envy, Jesus does not boast, Jesus is not proud. Jesus is not rude, Jesus is not self-seeking, Jesus is not easily angered, Jesus keeps no record of wrongs. Jesus does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Jesus always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Jesus never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

As you take the Lord's Supper this morning, let it remind us of how much Jesus really loves you. Don't forget that it was His unconditional love that not only sent Him to the cross, but kept Him nailed there. Remember how He took your place there. Remember that it was your sins He died for. Remember that He didn't have to do it, but He loved you that much.

But also let this Lord's Supper remind you that as we spoke of last week, Jesus proclaimed that He was "the Resurrection and the life;" John 11:25 (NIV). His death was not the end of His life because today, His tomb is empty.

Paul wrote in Romans 6:5 (NIV) "If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection." So let the bread and the cup remind you that there is a better life – an eternal life beyond this life, and it can only be found in Jesus.

Conclusion: Before we partake of the Lord's Supper, I want to give you the opportunity to examine your life and see how it measures up to Jesus' life. First, if you don't know Him as your Lord and Savior, you can come and find Him right here. He's more than willing to forgive you and accept you into His family.

If you've been saved, but you've never been baptized, I invite you to come and let your church family know that you are not ashamed of Jesus who lived and died for you.

If you're here and you know that you're saved, but things are not right between you and the Lord. You've drifted away from Him, but you want that peace and joy of your salvation restored. If you'll swallow your pride, you will find Jesus waiting to forgive you and welcome you back with open arms.

And finally, if you are here without a church home, but you're looking for folks who will accept you and love you as family, I know of no better people than this church family. If God is leading you here to worship and work alongside people whose purpose is to glorify God with their life, then I invite you to come and let us know that this is where you belong. We'll accept you as a candidate for baptism. We'll accept you pending your transfer of membership from a sister Baptist Church. Or we'll accept you on the statement of your faith in Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Whatever way the Lord is leading you today, would you come as we enter into this time of commitment?