

A Mother's View of the Lord's Supper

Texts: Matthew 26:26–30; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23–29

Springboard Text: Luke 2:34–35

Learning Objectives

1. To show that the Lord's Supper was given by Christ, practiced by the early church, and intended to continue until His return.
2. To help Christians partake with reverence, discernment, and self-examination.
3. To use Mary's nearness to Jesus' life and death as a sober lens for remembering the body and blood of the Lord.
4. To call every Christian back to faithful remembrance at the Lord's table.

Springboard Scripture

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

— Luke 2:34–35, NASB 1995

Opening

Before Mary ever stood near the cross, God told her a sword was coming.

Not a sword in her hand.

A sword in her soul.

Simeon looked at that young mother holding the infant Jesus and told her the truth. This Child would be opposed. Hearts would be exposed. Her own soul would be pierced. That

prophecy followed Mary from Bethlehem to Nazareth, from the temple to Jerusalem, from the public ministry of Jesus all the way to Calvary.

Then came the cross.

Mary saw what most mothers should never see. She saw the Son she had carried now carrying the sin of the world. She saw the body she had wrapped in swaddling cloths now torn by scourging. She saw the hands she had once held now nailed to wood. She saw His blood. She heard His words. She watched His life leave His body.

Now bring that to the Lord's table.

When Mary later stood among the disciples, she did not need someone to manufacture reverence for her. She knew what that body meant. She knew what that blood meant. She knew what the sword felt like.

So here is the question for us: when we come to the Lord's Supper, do we remember like people standing near the cross, or do we drift through it like people handling something common?

Thesis

The Lord's Supper is not a casual religious routine. It is Christ's appointed memorial, where God's children remember the body, blood, suffering, death, love, and promised return of the Son of God.

I. What the Lord's Supper Is

1. It Was Given by the Lord Himself

Text: Matthew 26:26–30

The Lord's Supper was not invented by men. It was not added later because the church wanted a ceremony. Jesus established it on the night before His death.

He took the bread.

He took the cup.

He gave the meaning.

He gave the command.

That makes it holy.

This is not a man-made religious habit. It belongs to Christ. The table is not ours to redesign, neglect, replace, cheapen, or treat casually. The Lord gave it. The Lord defined it. The Lord's people must honor it.

2. It Points to His Body and His Blood

Text: Matthew 26:26–28

The bread points the mind to His body.

The cup points the mind to His blood of the covenant, poured out for forgiveness of sins.

This is not ordinary eating. This is sacred remembrance. When Christians partake, they are not merely observing a ritual. They are being brought back to the body that suffered and the blood that was shed.

The bread does not point us to vague spirituality. It points us to the body of Christ.

The cup does not point us to religious sentiment. It points us to the blood of Christ.

If the mind is everywhere except the cross, something is wrong. If the table has become common in our hearts, something is wrong. If we can take the bread and cup without reverence, without thought, without gratitude, and without examination, then the problem is not with the table. The problem is with us.

3. It Proclaims His Death

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:26

Paul says, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Every time Christians eat the bread and drink the cup, they proclaim the Lord's death.

Before the preacher says a word, the table already speaks.

It says Christ died.

It says His body was given.

It says His blood was shed.

It says sin was serious.

It says grace was costly.

It says the cross must not be forgotten.

The central point of the Supper is not our mood. It is not our tradition. It is not a quiet pause in the service so we can move to the next thing. The central point of the Supper is the death of the Son of God for the sins of the world.

4. It Demands Reverence, Discernment, and Self-Examination

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:27–29

No Christian should come to the table carelessly.

The mind must not wander. The heart must not be cold. The conscience must not be asleep.

Paul says the Christian must examine himself. That does not mean a person must be sinlessly perfect before partaking. If that were the requirement, no one could partake. The point is reverence. The point is repentance. The point is discernment. The point is a mind fixed on the Lord.

The bread must not be treated as common bread in that moment. The cup must not be treated as common drink in that moment. This is the Lord's memorial.

We are not worthy because we have lived perfectly. We come in a worthy manner when we come with faith, reverence, discernment, gratitude, repentance, and serious attention to the body and blood of Christ.

5. It Looks Backward and Forward

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:26

The Lord's Supper looks backward to the cross and forward to the Lord's return.

We remember a death that happened. We confess a return that will happen.

The Supper stands between Calvary and the coming of Christ. The One who gave His body and blood is coming again.

That means the table is not dead memory. It is living proclamation. We do not remember a defeated Savior. We remember the crucified, risen, reigning Lord who is coming again.

II. What the Early Christians Did

1. They Continued Steadfastly

Text: Acts 2:41–42

Those who received the word were baptized. Then they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.

That language does not describe occasional interest. It describes devotion.

The Lord's Supper was woven into the life of the saved. They had obeyed the gospel. They had been added by the Lord. Now they continued in the things the apostles taught and practiced.

They did not treat the table as expendable.

They had come to Christ, and now they remembered Christ.

2. They Assembled on the First Day of the Week to Break Bread

Text: Acts 20:7

Years passed. Places changed. Congregations spread. But the practice remained.

“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread...” That is not filler language. That tells us something. The disciples assembled on the first day of the week, and the breaking of bread was central to that assembly.

They did not outgrow the Lord's Supper. They did not replace it with something more exciting. They did not move past it as if the cross were old news.

The disciples still gathered around the table.

The modern church does not need less remembrance. We need more reverence in the remembrance Christ gave.

3. They Planned to Continue Until the Lord Returned

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:26

Paul says Christians proclaim the Lord's death “until He comes.”

That means the Supper belongs to the whole age of the church. It was not temporary. It was not optional. It was not merely a first-century custom with no binding meaning.

Every Lord's Day, Christians stand between Calvary and His final appearing.

We look back and say, "He died."

We look ahead and say, "He is coming."

III. A Mother's View of the Lord's Supper

1. Mary Was Present Among the Disciples

Texts: Luke 24:44–53; Acts 1:14; Acts 2:41–42

Mary lived to see the promise move from shadow to fulfillment.

She saw the Child born. She saw Him grow. She saw Him misunderstood. She saw Him opposed. She saw Him crucified. She knew He had risen. She was present with the disciples before Pentecost, continuing in prayer with them.

After Pentecost, she continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.

Mary did not remember a stranger at the table.

She remembered her Son.

She remembered the Child promised by God, born of her body, raised in her home, and crucified before her eyes.

When the bread was broken, her mind could go where no one else's could go in quite the same way.

2. Mary Remembered His Humanity

Text: Luke 2:34–35

Simeon told Mary that a sword would pierce even her own soul.

Jesus was not pretending to be man. He was born. He was held. He was nursed. He grew. He became tired. He felt pain. He bled. He died.

At the Lord's table, Mary could remember that the body represented by the bread was the real body of her Son.

Not an illusion.

Not a symbol without suffering.

A real body. A real death. A real sword through a mother's soul.

3. Mary Remembered His Divinity

Text: Luke 2:40–52

At twelve years old, Jesus said He had to be in His Father's house.

Mary knew Him as her child, but He reminded her that His highest relationship was with the Father. He was not merely Mary's son. He was the Son of God.

The boy subject to Joseph and Mary was also the One who must do the Father's will.

Mary had to learn that she could not hold Him for herself. He came for God's work. He came for the world. He came for the cross.

That is another sword.

The Lord's Supper does not merely remember a tragic death. It remembers the death of the Son of God. The One who died was truly man, but He was not merely man. He was the Word who became flesh. He was the Son sent by the Father. He was the Lamb of God.

4. Mary Learned His Impartiality

Text: Matthew 12:46–50

Jesus would not allow physical family ties to outrank obedience to God.

When told that His mother and brothers were outside, He pointed to those who did the will of His Father.

That was not disrespect toward Mary. It was a clear statement of kingdom priority.

Jesus does not save people by bloodline, family name, sentiment, or human connection. The true family of Christ is made up of those who do the will of His Father.

Mary had to stand before Him as every disciple must stand.

She could not come to Him merely as mother. She had to come to Him in faith and obedience.

That is a hard lesson, but it is necessary. No one is saved by being near holy things. No one is saved by religious association. No one is saved because they were raised around truth. No one

is saved because someone in the family was faithful.

Every soul must submit to Christ.

5. Mary Saw His Care From the Cross

Text: John 19:25–30

With the sword in her heart, Mary heard Jesus say, “Woman, behold, your son!” and to John, “Behold, your mother!”

From the cross, Jesus cared for His mother.

In the middle of agony, He did not forget righteous responsibility. He did not leave her in the care of unbelief or indifference. He entrusted her to a disciple whom He loved.

He left His mother in the best spiritual hands possible.

That matters.

Even in suffering, Jesus was faithful. Even while bearing the weight of the cross, He honored responsibility. Even while dying, He cared.

The table reminds us not only that He suffered, but what kind of Lord suffered for us.

IV. What Mary Saw at the Cross

1. She Saw His Scourged Body

Texts: Matthew 27:26; John 19:1

Mary saw the cruelty of men laid on the body of her Son.

The back she had once clothed was torn open. The body represented in the bread was not bruised lightly. He was scourged. He suffered.

The Lord’s Supper should never let us forget that His body was given in real agony.

2. She Saw the Crown of Thorns

Texts: Matthew 27:29; John 19:2

Mary saw mockery pressed into His flesh.

Men crowned Him in hatred, but heaven knew He was King. They mocked what they did not understand. They bowed in contempt before the One before whom every knee will one day bow in truth.

The table reminds us that our King wore thorns before He wore glory.

3. She Saw the Cross

Texts: John 19:17–18; Galatians 3:13

The cross was not decoration. It was an instrument of death.

There the Savior hung between God and sinners, bearing what we deserved. He was treated as cursed so sinners could be redeemed from the curse.

Mary saw the wood. She saw the shame. She saw the public humiliation. She saw what sin cost.

The Lord's table should keep the cross from becoming polished jewelry in our minds. The cross was bloody. It was shameful. It was cruel. And there Christ gave Himself for us.

4. She Saw the Nails

Texts: Psalm 22:16; Luke 24:39–40; John 20:25–27

Mary saw hands that had healed now nailed.

She saw feet that had walked in mercy now fixed to wood.

The Lord's Supper points us to a Savior who did not merely speak love. He was fastened to suffering for us.

The risen Lord later showed His hands and His feet. Thomas was invited to see the marks. Those wounds were not imaginary. The death was not pretend. The body remembered at the table had been nailed to the cross.

5. She Saw His Blood

Texts: Matthew 26:28; John 19:34; Hebrews 9:22

Mary saw the blood of the covenant.

Not animal blood. Not ceremonial blood from the old sacrifices. His blood.

Jesus said the cup pointed to His blood of the covenant, poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. Hebrews reminds us that without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Without that blood, there is no remission.

The cup is not common. It points to the blood by which forgiveness is made possible.

6. She Saw His Agony

Texts: Hebrews 5:7; Luke 22:44; Luke 23:34

Mary saw sorrow on His face.

She saw the strain of suffering.

The cross was not clean, quick, or easy. Before the cross, His sweat became like drops of blood falling upon the ground. Hebrews speaks of His loud crying and tears. At Calvary, He prayed even for those who crucified Him.

Jesus was not untouched by suffering. He entered pain fully.

The table should press indifference out of us.

7. She Saw His Death

Texts: John 19:30, 34–37; Luke 23:46

Mary saw the final proof that He died.

The spear showed He did not faint. He did not merely appear to die. Blood and water came from His side.

She heard Him say, “It is finished.”

The suffering was not meaningless. The work was not unfinished. The Lamb had been offered. The price had been paid. The Son had obeyed the Father all the way to death.

When Christians come to the table, we do not remember a near-death experience. We remember death. Real death. Sacrificial death. Covenant blood. The body given. The blood shed.

V. The Call of the Lord's Supper

1. The Table Shows the Love of God

Texts: John 3:16; Romans 5:6–10; 1 John 3:16–18

God's love is not vague. It is not empty religious talk. It is not a soft word used to excuse sin.

God's love was shown when He gave His only begotten Son.

Christ did not die for worthy people who had earned mercy. He died for the helpless. He died for sinners. He died for enemies, that we might be reconciled to God through His death.

John says, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us."

The bread and cup preach the cost of redemption.

Do not talk about the love of God while treating the memorial of His Son like an interruption.

2. The Table Asks Every Christian a Serious Question

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:26–29

When you eat the bread and drink the cup, what do you see?

Do you see routine, or do you see the body and blood of Christ?

Do you remember vaguely, or do you remember the cross?

Do you examine yourself, or do you drift through the moment?

That is the question.

It is possible to sit in the assembly, hold the bread, drink the cup, and still not truly discern what is before you. The act can be right while the heart is asleep. Paul would not have warned the church if careless partaking were harmless.

The table calls for a serious mind.

3. The Table Calls the Wandering Christian Home

Texts: Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7–9

If you have neglected His day, His table, His sacrifice, and His church, the answer is not excuse-making.

The answer is repentance.

Come back to the cross. Come back to the table. Come back to the Lord.

Do not make peace with spiritual coldness. Do not rename neglect as busyness. Do not call drift a season. Sin needs repentance, not a softer label.

Simon was told to repent and pray. John says if we confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The wandering Christian does not need a new Christ. He needs to return to the Lord he has neglected.

4. The Gospel Calls the Lost to Obey Christ

Texts: Mark 16:15–16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3–4

If you are outside of Christ, do not admire Jesus from a distance.

Obey Him.

Hear the gospel. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Repent of your sins. Confess His name. Be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Rise to walk in newness of life.

The cross is not something to admire while refusing the command of the crucified Lord. The same Jesus who gave His body and shed His blood has authority over your soul.

Do not stand near the table while remaining outside of Christ.

5. The Supper Calls the Saved to Faithfulness

Texts: Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Hebrews 10:24–25

Have you, as a Christian, remembered Him faithfully on His day at His table?

If not, come back.

Repent of your sin. Return to the Lord who gave His body and blood for you.

The disciples came together on the first day of the week to break bread. Christians are warned not to forsake assembling together. The Lord's death is to be proclaimed until He comes.

This is not a small matter.

The table calls the saved to remember, examine, proclaim, and continue.

Conclusion

Mary could never see the Lord's Supper as a casual religious habit.

She knew the body.

She knew the blood.

She knew the sword.

But the Supper is not about Mary. It is about Christ. Mary helps us look at Him more carefully.

The Lord's Supper brings every Christian back to the cross. It reminds us that His body was given, His blood was shed, His love was costly, His death was real, and His return is certain.

So when the bread comes to your hand, see the body.

When the cup comes to your hand, see the blood.

When the table is before you, do not drift.

Remember Him.

Invitation

If you are outside of Christ, the cross calls you to obey the gospel. Believe in Christ. Repent of your sins. Confess His name. Be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

If you are a Christian who has grown cold, the table calls you back. Stop making excuses. Repent. Come home. Remember the Lord who gave His body and blood for you.

The question is not merely, "Do we take the Lord's Supper?"

The question is:

What do we remember when we do?