

Theme: The Eucharist is the thanksgiving meal, where God's people receive His grace anew, and give thanks for His many blessings.

I. Intro – Is Communion Outdated?

- A. Jimmy Stewart's "thanksgiving" in *Shenandoah*
- B. That is not a real thanksgiving prayer!
- C. Today we will celebrate communion/Eucharist
- D. We do this a couple of times a month
- E. Is this an outdated practice?
- F. Why do we do this?
- G. Today - it is the thanksgiving meal

II. The Thanksgiving Meal?

- A. The prominence of giving thanks in Last Supper
 - 1. Gave thanks for bread and cup (Matthew 26:26-29)
 - 2. Thanksgiving is included in Mark and Luke as well
 - 3. Paul records thanks for the bread (1 Cor. 11:23-24)
- B. Thanksgiving at other NT meals
 - 1. Feeding of 4,000 - gave thanks (Matthew 15:36)
 - 2. Feeding of the 5,000 - gave thanks (John 6:11, 23)
 - 3. Paul gave thanks for bread (Acts 27:35)
 - 4. All food good if received with thanksgiving (1 Tim 4:3-5)
- C. The link between Eucharist and regular meals in NT
 - 1. Four words - took, gave thanks, broke, gave (Matt. 26:26)

- 2. Same in feeding of 4,000 (Matt 15:36; Mark 8:6)
- 3. Similar in Paul on ship - missing gave (Acts 27:35)
- 4. We are to always give thanks to God
- 5. Thanksgiving is crystallized & concentrated in Eucharist

III. Giving Thanks At the Lord's Table

- A. Give thanks for God's common grace
 - 1. Jesus gave thanks for the food (Matt 26:26)
 - 2. This is also why it was done at all meals
 - 3. Reminds to be thankful for all God's provision
- B. Give thanks for the Incarnation
 - 1. This is my body - the Incarnation (Matt 26:26)
 - 2. Not literal - read John 6 - but the Incarnation
 - 3. He has become one of us! What a marvel!
 - 4. Our problem is not our humanity - it is sin
 - 5. The Incarnation reaffirms our humanity
- C. Give thanks for redemption
 - 1. Poured out for the forgiveness of sins (vv 27-28)
 - 2. God has not left us in our sin - Christ died for us!
 - 3. This Table reminds us Redemption is available
 - 4. This Table reminds us Redemption is free to us
- D. Give thanks for God's covenant with His people

1. Blood of the covenant - this is a covenant meal (vv27-29)
2. Anew in My Father's kingdom - a sure promise
3. God is a covenant making and keeping God
4. He is the God of hesed - covenant, steadfast love
5. Our salvation is sure - He has done it!

The Thanksgiving Meal

Matthew 26:26-29

August 19, 2012

Communion

Psalm 134:3

IV. Applying the Word

A. The importance of the thanksgiving meal

1. I have mentioned thanksgiving a lot recently
2. It is an important theme in Scripture
3. But our culture does not encourage this habit
4. The purpose of liturgy/form of worship (quote)
5. This meal helps shape us into thankful people
6. Regularly gives opportunity to reflect & give thanks

B. Come to the Table and give thanks

1. Our application today - giving thanks at the Table
2. Pick one of the 4 things - meditate & give thanks
 - a. Common grace - general blessings of life
 - b. Incarnation of Christ
 - c. Redemption
 - d. God's Covenant

C. The Eucharist Meal

Lord, we cleared this land, We plowed it, sowed it and harvested it. We cooked the harvest, it wouldn't be here, we wouldn't Be eatin' it, if we hadn't done it all ourselves. We worked dog-boned hard for every crumb and morsel, but we thank you Just the same anyway, Lord, for this food we're about to eat. Amen.
Jimmy Stewart in *Shenandoah*

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."
1 Corinthians 11:23–24

Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.
Matthew 15:36

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish....Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.
John 6:11, 23

After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.
Acts 27:35

3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.
1 Timothy 4:3–5

Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.
Matthew 15:36

When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so.
Mark 8:6

After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.
Acts 27:35

We must allow our liturgy not to express where we now are but to shape where we ought to be. All liturgical life should be a training to do better.... T. David Gordon

May the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth bless you from Zion Psalm 134:3