

Administering The Lord's Supper, Matthew 26:28-29, From Death to Banquet

Jesus said, "...*this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*" And he said to me, "*These are the true words of God.*"

The Lord's Supper takes us from death to banquet. When Jesus set up the Lord's Supper for us, Jesus knew for certain about His own death to come soon, His banquet to come much later, and everything in between.

When Jesus said these words, Jesus was facing His own death within hours. Here Jesus spoke of His own blood being poured out, which confirms that Jesus knew about His death. But what we are blessed to notice is that Jesus also knew what was to happen next, just the third day after His death. Jesus had absolute certainty of His resurrection. We know this because Jesus spoke about being alive again, and being with us in the Father's kingdom.

How could Jesus have known? Jesus knew that His death would trigger a chain of events culminating in the final coming of God's kingdom. Jesus was quite certain that this would come.

Through the impending sacrifice of Jesus, God would bring about all the promises of the new covenant. The sin of sinners would be cleansed, and there is more. God's kingdom would include the renewal of the entire heavens and earth. Listen again to what Jesus said here in Matthew 26:29, "...*until...I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom.*" Jesus was speaking about the old the vine from which the wine came, vine and wine from the present world in which Jesus was standing, and the world in which Jesus must soon die. But right alongside of that, Jesus was also speaking about new wine from a new vine in a whole new kingdom and world. Jesus spoke of the coming kingdom of God the Father!

What does it mean? It means that our faith in Jesus brings us into a relationship with God the Father, and into a relationship to the new heavens and new earth, in which we have a new relationship to wine at this meal. No more drunkenness. Instead, we now enter future rejoicing.

This short statement of Jesus regarding the future banquet of rejoicing was further described through God's prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 25:6-8, "*On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And He will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.*"

All of this great picture of the future banquet is what Jesus summarized in just a few words at The Last Supper, when Jesus said "*I will not drink again of this*

fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

In our church this Spring, we have studied the events of redemption. We started with the death of Jesus on Good Friday, then His resurrection, His ascension, and His sending of The Holy Spirit. What is next and last event of redemption to celebrate? The future banquet! Yes, we celebrate our certain future, that part of our redemption that has not yet happened! One fine day our Risen Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself will rend the heavens and come down. He will take us to be with Him, and He will drink wine with us and enjoy a great feast with us in heaven. That is the last event of redemption for us to celebrate, which we do right now.

Here is the point – because Jesus was mindful of our certain future when He instituted the Lord's Supper, so now while we participate in The Lord's Supper we are blessed to be mindful of our certain future with Jesus. The Lord's Supper envisions the actions of Jesus all the way back to His death.....all the way ahead to His great banquet with us. The Lord's Supper takes us from Jesus' death to Jesus' banquet.