

Remember Jesus Often

by David Servant

This sermon emphasizes the importance of remembering Jesus as the third biblical principle to ensure that the upcoming year will be the best year yet. It highlights the significance of being mindful of Jesus's sacrifice, understanding God's love, and incorporating remembrance of Christ into daily meals as a way to deepen love for God and obedience.

Scripture: John 15:13, 1 John 4:19, 1 Corinthians 11:24, Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:26, Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 10:16, Romans 5:8

Topics: "Remembrance of Christ", "Deepening Love for God"

Description

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Transcript

The third biblical principle to ensure that next year will be your best year yet. Hi, welcome to today's Little Lesson. Thank you so very much for joining me.

This is kind of like the 12 days of Christmas. I was thinking about that Christmas carol earlier today. The Christmas carol that says, on the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, and every day the true love gives the singer of the carol another gift, and so on.

And so I'm so blessed that I have 12 gifts to give to you as we approach Christmas. And actually, we're going to go all the way to the end of the year, because our goal is to have the very best year of our lives next year. And it's very, very possible if we'll get on the path of the righteous, do right, and love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

We've talked about those two principles in our last two Little Lessons, special Little Lessons. So if you miss those, why don't you just stop right now and watch those. They're both about 15 minutes, and then you'll be caught right up with the rest of and we can build from there.

So this third principle that I want to talk about today, and again, it's very simple. Of course, it's biblical, and it's so simple that I think people miss out on how profound it is. And when I first say this principle, you're going to go, oh, well, you might roll your eyeballs, but just hang with me because I have a lot more to say

about this principle, and then you'll understand a little bit more what I mean.

First principle is do right. Second principle is love God. And the third principle is remember Jesus.

Now you're going to say, well, how could I ever forget Jesus? Okay, yeah, I get that. But what I mean by remember Jesus is to be mindful of what Jesus has done for you and for me as much as possible. Okay, because if we're going to do right, let's start loving God.

If we're going to love God, and as a result of loving God, we're going to do right. Why do we love God? Well, John wrote, we love God. We love him because he first loved us.

So the more that we come to comprehend and understand and grasp the love of God, then the more we're probably going to love him. In fact, Paul even prayed that for the Ephesian Christians, that you might know the length and the breadth and the depth, and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge. And so there's an infinite potential.

I didn't say that right. The love of God is infinite. It's beyond actual realizing it in its fullness.

But we can grow gradually to getting a better and better revelation and understanding of God's love. And that's transformative because we love because he first loved us. So the more that we can get a handle of his love.

So what was the greatest act of love by our wonderful God? Well, I know you know, and that is Jesus's excruciating sacrifice on the cross. And of course, he suffered even before the cross, starting in the Garden of Gethsemane. If possible, take this cup from me.

He even prayed. It was so horrible. He received 39 lashes.

He was mocked. He was abused. He was spit upon.

His beard was torn out. He was impaled to a cross. He hung there for hours and so forth.

And even people who gathered around to watch him die mocked him and so forth. So he did that for us. He bore our sin in his body on the cross.

And you cannot help but think about that without it giving you pause and to make you appreciate and thankful and eliciting feelings of gratitude towards the Lord Jesus Christ. And I don't think about that enough myself, but I'm taking steps to try to think about that more. And that's what I also want to encourage you to do as well.

If we want to have our best year of our lives, well, it's going to be related to loving God and that's right. And so if we're going to love God, well, let's get to know his love for us. And naturally that will produce a greater love and appreciation for him from our own hearts.

So, and expounding on this a little bit, you recall that Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed at the end of what would be the last supper, the Passover meal that he had with the twelve, that he, first of all, girded himself with a towel and he washed their feet and so forth and gave them example as how they ought to serve one another. But something else that happened after the supper is that he took the bread and the cup and he said, this is my body broken for you, et cetera, et cetera. And this is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for the remission of sins and so forth.

And he said something very important. It was all important, of course, but he said, do this in remembrance of me. And so it's become an ordinance of the church.

Most churches say there's two ordinances, at least in the Protestant world, baptism and the Eucharist or baptism and communion. And various churches have various traditions as to how often they partake of the Lord's supper and how they do it, when they do it and so forth. And I've never, well, I should say for a long time, I have not been persuaded that we're doing this right on a number of levels.

And I'm not going to elaborate on all those particulars, but I am going to hone in on do this in remembrance of me, because we know that the bread represents his body broken for us. That's his excruciating death. He bore in his body our sins on the cross and the wine or the juice represents his blood, which was shed for the remission of our sins.

So the death of Jesus Christ is very much characterized and symbolized in the Lord's supper, no matter how you take it. Now, some churches, their tradition is they do it once a year because they say, well, Jesus did it once at the Passover. Passover is once a year, and that's what he meant, do this in remembrance of me once a year.

But Jesus didn't say, do this in remembrance of me once a year. Some churches do it once a month. They have their communion Sunday.

It's the first or the last Sunday of the month oftentimes, and they do it that way. You know, it's kind of evolved into a kind of an interesting thing. Again, I'm not here to argue the particulars, but the first Lord's supper was a meal with believers gathered around, you know, and they just had a meal together, and then they each broke some bread, which would be a this common cup, and wine was a very common beverage.

They didn't have Coca-Cola and Mountain Dew and all the other beverage choices that we have. Back in their day, in that time, it was basically water, by which you took a risk drinking water because of poor sanitation and so forth. Paul even told Timothy, don't longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments, you know, and that's the reason.

And so wine was a very, very, very common element of Jewish meals, not just something they did once a year at Passover. Okay. And bread was the most common element of average Jewish meals in Jesus's day.

Right, right. In fact, you know, the phrase breaking of bread, let's break bread together is just really a synonymous term. People think, well, that's talking about communion.

Well, it could be, but it doesn't have to be talking about communion because they broke bread every day, practically at every meal. There was a loaf of bread and they broke it, you know, and didn't even have a knife, broke pieces off. And so Jesus took those very common elements and he said, you know, this is my body.

This is my blood. So from now on, you know, I want you to associate bread with my body and wine or grape juice with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.

And if you read in the New Testament epistles, there's nothing that says once a week, once a month, once a year. They came together with their love feast. Paul did talk about the Lord's supper in first Corinthians

and how it was being done improperly when they all came together.

But there's no mention of a little wafer and a little cup. It seems like they did it as a full meal altogether. Okay.

But I'm not even going to get off onto that. I want to talk about the fact that Jesus took the two most common elements of what you would eat and what you would drink in his day, the most common elements, and he placed a symbolism on them. My body, my blood.

Now you think about it, grape juice does kind of look a little bit like blood, not exactly like blood. Wine, red wine looks a little bit like blood, not exactly. Bread kind of looks like a body, you know, round thing, but maybe, you know, kind of flesh colored.

And so Jesus takes two very common things and says, do this in remembrance of me. And so I actually, I'm just telling you what I've done. And even if I'm wrong, I'm not wrong in what I'm doing.

Who is going to argue against this? I like to think that every time that I have a meal, you know, if I have bread, for example, or a beverage, I can think about the body and the blood of Jesus and that he gave his life sacrificially, excruciatingly, unjustly, in one sense, he took upon himself my sin. And it's good to think about that and to remember him every time I do that. And now my diet is much more varied than the average diet back in Jesus' day.

I have, you know, probably you too, we eat so many different foods and bread is just one component and we have so many different beverages. I just think about this. What if Jesus, instead of coming to Israel, had gone to somewhere in the tropics where, you know, there's not wheat, there's rice.

And where the most common staple, for example, in most all of Asia, every meal seems that you have rice if you're in Asia, you know, and what do you drink? Well, you're not drinking wine if you're living in a tropical area, unless of course it's been imported from a faraway place. You can't grow wine in tropical grapes and tropical climates. People drink a lot of things.

So, you know, again, I'm just wondering and just want your gears to be turning a little bit. If Jesus had gone to Burma or Cambodia or Laos or Thailand or something instead of Israel, is it possible that the Lord's Supper would have been different elements, you know, and it could have been rice and pineapple juice or something, you know, why not? Why not? And does God love the people in Thailand and Cambodia? Yeah, absolutely. Okay.

So again, I think we've religiousized this in a lot of ways. And here's what I'm telling you to do. I want you to, in this next year, to make it the best year of your life by doing right, loving God, and remembering Jesus.

And I'm going to encourage you at every single meal. I hope that you take a moment to be thankful for your meal and to pray a prayer. My wife and I always, when we eat together, we pray.

And I am reminding myself and reminding my wife in my prayer, thank you, Lord Jesus, that you died on the cross for my sins. You shed your blood for my sins. Your body was broken for me.

And, you know, I remember you. That reminds me of how great and good you are. And that causes me to love you more, which is going to result in me loving you more and obeying you more.

See, I'm remembering him. Now, I only eat two meals a day at my age, but you might eat three meals a day. If at every meal, three times a day, you remember Jesus's sacrificial death for you consciously in your mind and said something out your mouth to that effect, even if I'm wrong in saying that, you know, because that doesn't meet the criteria.

There's not an ordained minister and you're not in a church building and you don't have a little cup and a little wafer and so forth. Even if I'm wrong, you know, and this is a little bit, you know, unscriptural, who's going to find fault with me for encouraging people to remember Jesus every three times a day, every time when you pray. And even think about the fact that just, you can take the, you know, the communion symbolism further.

You know, when we take communion, the wine and the bread, we eat it and it goes into us, right? And so that's also reminds us of the fact that Christ who died for us has come into us. You can even take it one step further. There's lots of analogies, you know, but you chew it, the bread.

Jesus was crushed for our iniquities. So as you chew, you can even think about, it was my sins that killed Jesus and that will cause love for him to well up on the inside of you, you know, three times a day. Remember Jesus and verbalize that out loud and think of whatever you're eating, that's his body.

Whatever you're drinking, that's his blood. Don't ever have a meal again without thinking that's his blood. That's his body.

I'm taking it into me. I'm remembering what he did and he's in me now, just as this food gives life to every cell in my body. So Christ gives life, eternal life, new life, the Holy Spirit life inside of me.

Okay. So that's the third thing I want you to do. Don't wait until next year, start today.

Why would you wait? Do right. Love God. Remember Jesus.

Until next time, may the Lord bless you.

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