

Reflection Questions: Luke 22:7-20

For the message, "Spiritual Feasting" given by Pastor John Ferguson
at New City Church of Calgary on February 19, 2017

These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life.

You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion.

To review the sermon, go to NewCityChurch.ca/sermons

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 22:7-20

A summary of the sermon: Jesus has earnestly desired to eat this Passover Meal with his disciples before he suffers (which would begin in a matter of hours). He took the bread and cup of the Passover meal and redefined it around himself, essentially saying that he would be the Passover sacrificial lamb (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8).

Key Points:

- Jesus gave his church two sacraments: baptism and communion. Communion goes by different names: the Lord's Supper, the Lord's Table, or the Eucharist (which means "thanksgiving.")
- The word 'sacrament' is derived from both Latin and French and means essentially "a sacred mystery." It's a mystery in the sense that the meaning has to be revealed to us.
- A sacrament is a sign and seal of God's gospel of grace. It's a sign in that it points to the what Jesus has done for us, and it's a seal testifying to it's truthfulness. In this case, communion points us to the reality of Christ's sacrifice for us as well as seals the truthfulness of the gospel: "this is my body given for you...this cup is the new covenant in my blood."
- The bread and the wine help us remember the sacrifice of Jesus, but it's also a present communion with Jesus as well. When we gather together as the church, he is not absent, but is present with us. And in the meal, he so identifies the bread and the wine with himself that we commune with him at the Table.
- We should come to the Table humbly, believing, celebrating, regularly, and longingly.

Key Quotes:

- John Calvin, "The sacraments are exercises which make us more certain of the trustworthiness of God's Word.... For by them he manifests himself to us...and attest his good will and love toward us more expressly than by the Word."
- Pastor John, "We receive the same grace as we do from the preached word, but we get the same grace in a more full or complete way. In the Supper, we get to hear, see, touch, smell, and taste the Gospel, all by faith! To be even more blunt, for the one who has the eyes of faith to see, the Bread is edible Gospel and the Wine is liquid Grace. Through these sacraments, God nourishes our faith as the Gospel is set before us to taste and see that the Lord is good."
- John Calvin, "For whenever this matter is discussed, when I have tried to say all, I feel that I have as yet said little in proportion to its worth. Although my mind can think beyond what my tongue can utter, yet even my mind is conquered and overwhelmed by the greatness of the thing. Therefore, nothing remains but to break forth in wonder at this mystery, which plainly neither the mind is able to conceive or the tongue to express."

Bottom Line:

- Jesus is eternal life, and we must feast on him by faith.

QUESTIONS

1. How does this text speak to your life?

- What has been your experience in thinking about the Lord's Supper? Were you raised in a tradition that observed the Communion? Or was your experience at New City Church your first experience?

- What kind of questions have you had about Communion? Do you think you have grown in your appreciation for Communion? Why or why not?
- Read John 6:48-54. How does Jesus describe what it means to believe on him for eternal life?
 - Jesus is obviously not promoting cannibalism (though some accused the early Christians of such), so what is he saying?
 - The text of John 6 was obviously given before Jesus gave Communion to his disciples to do in remembrance of him, but do you find it interesting that Jesus gave his disciples a meal which so closely fleshes out (no pun intended) what he was teaching in John 6? If so, why?
- In giving practical application to the passage in Luke, Pastor John said we should come to the Lord's Table humbly, believing, celebrating, regularly, and longingly. Which one of these speaks to you the most?

2. How does this text speak to us as a church community?

- What do you think that the effect of Communion should have on our church community? In other words, if the bread and the wine are the gifts of God for the people of God, and we take them believing that Christ died for us, and we feed on him in our hearts by faith, how does this ritual form us into the people of God?

3. How does this text speak to our city?

- How does this idea of feasting on Jesus as our bread of life help you explain the essence of Christianity to people in this city?
- What would it look like if people in our city realized that their deepest hunger and thirst is found in Jesus, the bread of life?
- How do you think you could communicate the truth of what Jesus said in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst"?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____