

The Body and the Blood
Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020
Luke 22:19-20

As he was hailed on Palm Sunday, Jesus is the Savior! In John 6:51 he explains his mission or purpose in terms of bread. He is the *living bread that came down from heaven*, and if anyone eats this bread *he will live forever*. He then goes on to say he will give this bread, his flesh, for the life of the world. This is the very thing we remember in the elements of communion, his body and blood (Luke 22:19-20).

1. The **prepared** body. Luke 22:19; Isaiah 53; Hebrews 10:1-10.

--How is the nature of God the Son incarnate significant as it relates to his sacrifice and the provision of atonement? Review both Isaiah 53 and Hebrews 10:1-14.

--At first people seemed to respond positively to Jesus in John 6, at vv. 14-15. But how does he understand their interest, 6:26-27? What parallels do you see in people today? What does Jesus identify as their problem, John 6:64?

--Compare John 6:35-36 with 6:47-59. What is "eating his flesh" actually speaking of? How is this symbolized as we participate in communion? Explain why communion is intended for believers, and is really without value for someone who does not believe in or follow Jesus.

2. The **poured out** blood. Luke 22:20.

--Blood sacrifice as atonement was established by God in the OT law (Leviticus 17:11). What is it about the blood that provides atonement for a life?

--How is it that the poured out blood of Jesus (his death) could accomplish what quantities of blood shed in animal sacrifices could never accomplish? What exactly is that (Hebrews 10:1, 4, 14, 19-22)?

--What does the Spirit of God do when a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in what he accomplished in the giving of his body and blood (Hebrews 16-17)? How is this a change from the limitations of the Old Covenant?

3. The **personal** sacrificed body and blood, Luke 22:19-20.

--Until we understand the personal nature of Jesus' sacrifice, we will not embrace its promise. How does John 6 (for instance, 6:27, 33, 35) demonstrate that "for you" in Luke 22:19-20 was intended for more than just the disciples in the upper room?

--True worship through the communion remembrance happens only as we believe, recognizing Jesus' sacrifice "for you" is actually "for me". What must we understand about ourselves in order to appreciate the meaning and application of Jesus' death (see Isaiah 53:6)?

--As the sacrifice is personal, so must the response of faith be. Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-31. Who is responsible for making certain our participation in Communion is true worship?

On Palm Sunday the crowds hailed Jesus as savior, not understanding the sacrifice he would make to accomplish final atonement and salvation for all who would believe. That sacrifice is what we remember in Communion, and next Sunday we will celebrate the declaration of victory over death in Jesus' resurrection!