

The Final Meal

“And He took bread, and when he had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

1 Peter 4:16

The final meal is a meal of great significance and importance. It is a meal where I would imagine the very heart of a person is expressed, nothing is left to chance, only what is truly important is spoken. So when we read about what Jesus did and what He said in this final meal we should pay special attention and hear what is being said.

As we draw closer and closer to the Easter weekend we essentially draw closer to the cross of Jesus Christ, the most significant moment in human history. You would think that such a moment would be burnt into the memory of the human mind never to be forgotten or taken for granted. Yet even Jesus knew that this would not be the case. Jesus knew how easily the human mind forgets. History has proven this over and over again as we know from the journey of the Israelites, God’s chosen people. God saves them, they repent and worship God but soon they forget and fall back into sin and worship other false Gods. This pattern is repeated again and again which is summarised in Psalm 78.

Are we all that different from the Israelites? Do we not, after tasting the goodness of God, forget and fall back into sin becoming lazy, complacent and judgemental? If we had to reflect on our life and be honest with ourselves we would find that we often forget the blessings of God, we often forget the forgiveness we received, we end up falling into sin and even worshipping ‘false idols’ like sport, money, work, possessions, and even perhaps our family or the work of the church. It is a challenge to us to keep our hearts and minds fixed on God, remembering the salvation we have received through Jesus Christ on the cross.

Jesus knew how easily we forget and so in an ordinary act he gave us a means to remember. The breaking of bread around the table is a simple ordinary act which Jesus gives extra-ordinary meaning. This act has become a sacrament known as The Lord’s Supper. The symbols of the bread and the wine representing Christ’s body given for us and the blood poured out for us for the forgiveness of sin. We are told to do this in remembrance. I wonder, every time we have an ordinary meal, whether it is not an occasion, an opportunity for us to remember. Not that it would replace the sacrament of The Lord’s Supper, or become the Lord’s Supper. Simply that we can remember the blessing we have received through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin. That in this we will each and every day be reminded to live as Christians and not fall back into sin.

The challenge is set before us to remember every day the forgiveness we have received and allow Jesus to shape and change our lives each day that we may become shining lights to those around us and extend the same grace and forgiveness we have received to those who, like us, may not deserve it.