

A WORD ON WORSHIP

MARCH 24, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mark 14:22-24

“While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is My body.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”



The eating of the bread and the drinking of the cup is not a magic ritual. Its consumption brings no automatic guarantee of salvation. If Judas participated in the meal, and there is no indication in the passage that he did not, then eating the bread and drinking the cup must be internalized for it to be of saving value. The new covenant must be written on the hearts of God’s people, not completed by ritual in a stain glassed building. This is not the food of immortality, but a public proclamation of the Lord’s death until He returns.

When we come to this table, we are to examine ourselves just as the original disciples did. The Last Supper was not a sacrament of blessing, but a night of high tension and sweaty palms. Jesus had told them one who sat at the table would betray Him. The gathered disciples did not single out Judas as the guilty party, but rather looked to themselves and asked if it were them. Self examination, not cross examination, is Paul’s exhortation to us in 1st Corinthians 11:27-29 when we gather to partake in this meal. We are only worthy of the Lord’s Supper when we recognize how unworthy we are. Its power is seen when we recognize Jesus has died for us and accepts us in spite of our unworthiness.

Yes, Judas was the one at the table guilty of treason, but none of the disciples are above reproach. Each of them will prove themselves to be an unfaithful servant before the night is done. In truth, the remaining eleven were concerned about themselves. We are no different in our egocentric approach to the table. Our separation and isolation from each other stands revealed before the bread and the cup. The Last Supper calls us to imitate Christ’s self-sacrificing love and should be a moment when we look to heal the breaks in our fellowship.

Do not let the Lord’s Table become more of an opportunity to examine your watch than your heart. We are more focused on schedules in our hurried lifestyles than we are concerned about how we may have betrayed our Lord this past week or how we might betray Him next week. Each of us should humbly contemplate our lives and consider all the ways, big and small, we have betrayed the Lord and confess such weakness. If one of the twelve who spent three years with Jesus could betray the Lord, every Christian has that potential.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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MARCH 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Hymn of the Week

Hallelujah! What a Savior

WORDS & MUSIC: PHILIP P. BLISS,
IN INTERNATIONAL LESSONS
MONTHLY, 1875

[HTTP://WWW.HYMN TIME.COM/TCH/
HTM/H/A/L/HALWASAV.HTM](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/h/a/l/halwasav.htm)

Man of Sorrows! what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
"Full atonement!" can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished!" was His cry;
Now in Heav'n exalted high.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious king,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew His song we'll sing;
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

HOLY WEEK



For this is
my blood...
poured out for
many for the
forgiveness
of SINS.

Matthew 26:28

**Maunder
Thursday**
March 28 – 7 p.m.
Westminster
Services



Good Friday
March 29
6 p.m. Sunrise Good
Friday Services

**Church Sanctuary
Open for Prayer
and Listening**

Monday
March 25 – 7 p.m.

Tuesday
March 26 – 7 p.m.

Wednesday
March 27 – 7 p.m.



**OBSERVE
EASTER
WITH YOUR
CHURCH
FAMILY**

Hosanna!

Palm Sunday
March 28

Resurrection Sunday
March 31

8:45 a.m. Resurrection Sunday Services
10:30 a.m. Community Pot Luck Brunch

The Cost of Discipleship: Kazakhstan Destroys Bibles

By BosNewsLife News Center Thursday, March 21, 2013 (7:19 PM)

A court in Kazakhstan has ordered the destruction of 121 pieces of Christian literature, including Bibles, while in neighboring Uzbekistan an elderly convert from Islam is in "great distress" after police raided his home, Christians said Thursday, March 21.

Vyacheslav Cherkasov, a street evangelist from the Kazakhstan's city of Shchuchinsk, was reportedly detained by police on Oct. 20, 2012 for offering Christian literature to passers-by in the street. Officers confiscated his suitcase containing Bibles, children's Bibles and other books and leaflets about the Christian faith, said Forum 18, an advocacy group investigating the case.

On March 5 the court said the confiscated material

should be destroyed, in what is believed to be the first such ruling since Kazakhstan gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Cherkasov was also ordered to pay 86,550 Tenge (\$574), well above the average one month's wage in Kazakhstan on charges of "violating the rules" regarding "importing, publishing and distribution of religious literature" which came into force in 2011 as part of a harsh new Religion Law. Cherkasov, who was previously harassed by police, has lodged an appeal, trial observers said.

Local Council of Churches Baptists protested. The latest incident is part of a wider crackdown by authorities on devoted Christians in Central Asia.

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