

Remembering the Mission and Motive of Jesus

I. The Significance of Historical Social Amnesia

A. Definition and Occurrence of Historical Social Amnesia

1. **Ecclesiastes 1:11 (ESV)** *There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.*
2. Humans tend to forget
 - a. Most of us alive today will be forgotten by the third generation
 - b. WWII
 - (1) Few remain alive who fought in WW2,
 - (2) dwindling are the number who lived through those days,
 - (3) and still fewer are people aware of the real life impact that war had on culture and personal experience
 - c. The tendency of human culture is to forget people and events that came before them, even when those events shape their current experience.

B. Jesus and Historical Social Amnesia

1. **1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)** ²³ *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,* ²⁴ *and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* ²⁵ *In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."* ²⁶ *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*
2. Taking the bread and the cup in remembrance of Jesus negates historical social amnesia
 - a. Every generation is reminded
 - (1) of the historical fact of Jesus' life and death
 - (2) of the personal spiritual impact of Jesus' life and death
 - b. **The Lord's Supper reminds us not only of Jesus generally, but of His mission and His motive specifically**

II. The Mission and Motive of Jesus

A. The Bread - The Mission of Jesus

1. At first glance - redemption through His death on the cross
2. But also, - God's mercy through His life
 - a. **Luke 4:16-19 (ESV)** *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*
 - b. Through His Spirit-filled life
 - (1) To proclaim good news to the poor
 - (a) That God hears them
 - (b) That God loves them

- (c) That God acts on their behalf
- (d) That though the world forgets and dismisses them, God does not
- (2) To proclaim liberty to the captives
 - (a) **Hebrews 2:15 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*
 - (b) To announce God's active intent to rescue all who put their faith in Jesus from the peril of death and judgment presented by sin
- (3) To proclaim recovering of sight to the blind
 - (a) Physical healing
 - (b) Spiritual healing
 - i) Unable to see God as He is
 - ii) Unable to see ourselves as we are
 - iii) Unable to see either the existence or danger sin presents
- (4) To set at liberty those who are oppressed
 - (a) True liberty is more than just a change of circumstance
 - (b) True liberty is the ability to flourish with love, and hope, and joy in any circumstance
- (5) To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
 - (a) To announce the inauguration of the kingdom
 - (b) To ratify the opportunity of the kingdom in His blood through His death on the cross

B. The Cup - The Motive of Jesus

1. The motive of Jesus is love
 - a. Jesus said of the cup, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood."
 - b. A covenant is an agreement between two parties that contains the terms of their relationship
 - (1) When Jesus was questioned about the "greatest commandment"
 - (2) Asked to reduce the covenant to a single command
 - (a) **Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)** *But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*
 - (b) The entire covenant between God and the people of His choosing depends on love
 - i) Love for God
 - ii) Love for people
2. The motive of Jesus remains the same under the new covenant: love
 - a. **John 13:34-35 (ESV)** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- b. In reality,
 - (1) the mission and the motive of Jesus are one and the same: love.
 - (2) **the mission and motive of those who share in the Lord’s Supper, the practical resistance to historical social amnesia, is love.**

III. The Christian - The Reminder of Jesus to the World

A. Historical Social Amnesia - the world tends to forget

- 1. The world forgets the mission and motive of Jesus
- 2. The world must be reminded of the personal, experiential significance of Jesus for every human being
 - a. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - b. All are subject to divine judgment - whether they know it or not
 - c. All must hear the good news of God’s love for them

B. The Lord’s Supper and You

- 1. By your taking the bread and cup, you proclaim the death of Jesus until He comes
 - a. You remind yourself of what God has done for you in Christ
 - b. You also remind yourself that you are the Body and Blood of Jesus in the world today
 - (1) You are the physical reminder to the world of Christ’s mission
 - (2) You are the physical reminder to the world of Christ’s motive
- 2. **This piece of bread, this tiny cup, as you take it in faith each time you eat it, each time you drink it in remembrance of Jesus, represents your personal commitment to combat historical social amnesia on Christ’s behalf.**
 - a. Every time you take the bread and the cup, you proclaim the death of Jesus until he comes.
 - b. Every time you act in obedience, pray in the Spirit, worship in faith God uses you to remove the obstruction of historical social amnesia from the world and proclaim afresh and anew the glory and wonder of saving grace.

C. The World forgets

- 1. The World forgets, so, take this bread.
 - a. “This is the body of Christ which is broken for you.
 - b. Do this in remembrance of Jesus.
- 2. The world forgets, so, take this cup.
 - a. “This cup is the new covenant in my blood,” Jesus said.
 - b. “Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
- 3. **The world forgets, so, having taken the bread and the cup, go remind them of Jesus as you live out His mission and motive in covenant with Him.**