

MARCH 12

Communion is...

Communion is not just a Christian tradition, but it truly represents the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Read Matthew 26:26-36

The details of Jesus' journey to the cross all have a story to tell. And such is definitely the case when we read this detail in verse 36 of where Jesus and His disciples came to pray... **the place was called Gethsemane.**

In the book of Luke, we find he calls this place the Mount of Olives, and that would be fitting, because the Garden of **Gethsemane** is a small grove consisting of eight ancient olive trees located at the foot of the Mount of Olives just outside the city of Jerusalem. The name 'Gethsemane' derives from the Aramaic word gat semănê, which **means 'olive press'** suggesting the presence of such in this garden.

So, let's not miss this detail. In an olive press, olives are crushed to the point of separating the flesh of the olive from the oil of the olive. While in this garden, Jesus would be pressed to the point of crushing too as He surrendered Himself unto sacrifice. See in this garden He would pray to the point of sweating drops of blood and later be arrested and led away to be crucified... crushed for our salvation. His literal flesh would be separated from His blood on the cross. And we also understand that spiritually, He would come forth from the grave, no longer flesh, but fully Spirit again. **Yes, this place called Gethsemane was surely fitting for the crushing He endured.**

In verse 26, we see Jesus institute the Lord's supper with His disciples, breaking the bread for them to remember His body that would be crushed and broken. Bread is nourishment for living. As we partake of His body that was broken under the pressing of all that Jesus experienced, we are nourished to live daily in His Truth and love.

In verses 27-28 we see Jesus offering the cup of wine, symbolic of His blood that would come forth as He endured the crushing as well. Wine brings gladness of heart. As we partake of His blood, our sin and shame are taken away and we find gladness of heart for today and the days yet to come for all eternity.

Every detail of Jesus' story matters and speaks to His sacrifice that brings us LIFE!

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus Your story speaks to me in so many ways. In each detail I find life and gladness because You willingly gave Your life for me. Thank You for the crushing You endured and the way You instituted for me to remember it and experience the spiritual nourishment I need every day.



EstablishedFootsteps.com