

Communion is...

Communion is forgiveness... as I eat this Gospel meal, I experience the forgiveness of Christ, and I am empowered and inspired to forgive others.

Read Matthew 26:26-28

After that very hard conversation with Judas at the Passover table, we read in verses 26-28 that Jesus shared the first communion with His disciples, instituting an experience for them to remember the sacrifice He was about to make... His body broken and His blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

Did you notice Jesus' words in verse 27 in regard to the cup? He said, ***"Drink from it, all of you."*** The word, ***"all"*** catches my heart in deep ways because this word would have to include Judas. Some may say that Judas had already exited at this point, as in the Gospel of John the description of this meal might indicate Judas had already left. But I believe he was still present at the table for this moment. And that **Jesus' choice of words was very intentional.**

Jesus specifically said, ***"Drink from it, all of you."*** What love and surrender to the Father's will and love for Jesus to speak in this way, including Judas in this meal that brings forgiveness. See **Jesus was offering Judas this grace-filled benefit of His coming death... even though Judas was one of the key players in setting His death in motion.**

As I consider this Word today, and take of His body and blood, I must ponder two things:

First, that I am included in the ***"all"***... what love and grace of forgiveness is ministered to me.

Second, to ask myself if I am excluding anyone from my forgiveness.

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, I am so thankful that You instituted this Gospel meal that speaks forgiveness for ALL. How I need it! But I am also challenged to follow in Your ways. How can I drink of Your forgiveness so freely given to me and then withhold it from others? **Search me and show me** if I am excluding anyone from my forgiveness, even those who may be working against me, even those whom I may feel justified in excluding. And then **nourish me with Your grace and love to freely offer what You have given me.**

