

Communion is...

Communion is my response to Jesus invitation. Just because the invitation is given, it doesn't mean I have to say yes or even show up with the right attitude. I want to say yes, every time!

Read Matthew 26:17-18

Many years before this time, when God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He instituted the Passover meal and declared it to be celebrated every year. It was a symbol and promise of God's enduring love and freedom for His people. So it is no coincidence that Jesus crucifixion would take place during the weekend of Passover... it was divinely appointed that way because Jesus was the perfect sacrificial lamb. This moment had been ordained from the beginning.

However, even though Jesus was fully God, He was also fully man... meaning He experienced the struggle of the human experience in emotion and thought and every way possible. **So, knowing that His brutal death was coming in just two days, we can only imagine the struggles going on inside of Jesus...** in His mind, will and emotions.

And yet, Jesus didn't use these struggles as an excuse to veer from celebrating God's ordinance of the Passover. Instead, **He made the Passover part of His hard moment.** As we commune with Jesus, we are letting Him tell us the story of what happened during the experience of His death, burial and resurrection. **The struggle was real. But in His struggle, He stepped into what God had ordained versus giving Himself permission to veer.**

So, what is the point? Well in our humanity, we are often prone to do the opposite. When life gets hard, **amidst the chaos of the struggle, we often give ourselves permission to veer from the things God has instituted in our lives,** saying things like, *"it's ok because I am in in a hard season and I will get back to the things of God when things get settled."*

That approach may be understandable from a human perspective, but because of Jesus' death for us, we are fully alive in His Spirit even though we are human. So, in the fullness of His life in us, **we like Jesus don't have to operate out of our humanity.** We like Jesus, even in the midst of real struggle, can continue in the ways that God has instituted in our lives. His ways are always for our good.

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, at Your table I am listening to Your story. And I am seeing Your example of living Godly in the midst of real struggle. You did it so well, and I want to do it well too! **Help me not to give myself permission to sin, even when life is hard.** Help me instead to continue in Your ways, knowing they will bring true life to me.

