

APRIL 6

## Communion is...

**Communion is** embracing LIFE. Jesus didn't die for me to feel sorrow about His sacrifice, but so that I, like Him, can embrace LIFE in the Spirit.

## Read Matthew 27:27-32 and Isaiah 11:1-5

**I've mentioned it before during this communion experience, but I just had to go there again as we enter this Holy Week...** to Isaiah 11:1-5. I had to go there, because as we read Jesus' story it is so important to remember that Jesus operates differently than man. This prophetic word of Jesus in Isaiah paints an important backdrop for us to see that Jesus would have the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength and the fear of the Lord resting on Him. And He would make decisions and have thought processes based on righteousness, not on what He would see and hear. Knowing this impacts how I see His story greatly. And it impacts how I see mine and yours as well!

**See, I wonder** what Jesus saw and thought when the whole Roman cohort of soldiers gathered around Him. Of course He knew they were there intending to do Him great harm, **but I wonder** if His mind instead focused on the angel armies of heaven gathered all around Him.

**And I wonder** what went through His mind when they placed the crown of thorns on His head and removed His robe. No doubt He felt those thorns pierce His brow and felt the shame of being disrobed in such mockery, **but I wonder** if His mind instead focused on the crown and robe of righteousness awaiting Him in heaven.

**And I wonder** what He heard when they mocked Him as King of Jews before leading Him away to be crucified. I am certain the insults landed like a bomb in His heart, **but I wonder** if He saw the throne room of heaven, and the king's chair seated there beside His Father that He would occupy soon.

**As you can see, my wondering stirs up lots of questions about these horrible moments.** But among the many benefits we find at the communion table, one is that we can bring our questions to ask Jesus. And as we take of His body and blood, we can do more than feel sorrow for what He experienced, we can listen as He reveals His heart, His wisdom, counsel and strength so that we can embrace the LIFE He died to give us.

**As horrific as these moments were, there is so much to embrace of Jesus in them.** May we not just read these moments and feel badly for Jesus. Oh yes our hearts weep for the agony He experienced, how can they not? But the more I learn of Jesus, I am certain that He died for way more than our sorrow. He died to bring us LIFE. And at the communion table, we can learn to embrace that LIFE, just like Him!

## Prayer Conversation Starter...

**Jesus, your gift cost You everything.** As I sit with you today at the table, may I learn of You so that I can embrace all that Your gift of LIFE is to me...



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