

## Communion is...

**Communion is better...** better than anything this world can offer.

## Read Matthew 27:33-34

**The self-control, wisdom and prophetic instruction we see in Jesus as He enters the place called Golgotha is nothing short of Divine.** Jesus definitely knew He had just entered the place where all of this evil against Him would culminate in His brutal crucifixion. And He knew these moments in verses 33-34 were His last before they strapped Him to the cross. I cannot imagine the emotions and thoughts that would have been crashing down upon Him during this time.

**It appears that wine mixed with gall was the “last meal” for a person heading toward their cross.** So, like any other, they offered this mixture to Jesus as well. But we find that after tasting it, He refused to drink it. Why? I believe the content of the meal itself will give us insight.

**We all know that wine is often a go-to drink for someone in distress, because it takes the edge off.** So, the common person headed toward their crucifixion would certainly want to accept it. And what about gall? Gall was a mixture of bitter herbs mixed into the wine to make it even more “numbing” in nature. So, although perverse, in a sense they were offering Jesus a bit of compassion before they killed Him. **Knowing these things can give clarity to some of the reasons why Jesus may have refused.**

**First, Jesus was committed to bearing the full weight of sin.** Even though this mixture would have lessened His pain, He refused because numbing His pain would have minimized His sacrifice. Amazing self-control!

**And secondly, we read this prophecy of Jesus in Psalm 69:21, “They also gave me gall for my food and wine for my drink.”** Here we see gall and wine separated as food and drink. I believe His refusal of both was a picture of Divine wisdom and prophetic instruction. **See there were really two meals before Him in this moment,** this common earthly meal of gall and wine, and the Divine meal of His body and blood. In wisdom He chose the better. And His choice prophetically calls us do the same!

**See when we come to the communion table,** in many ways we are following His example. As we come, we too are refusing what the world would feed us, and reaching for better... the body and blood of Christ. Choosing to partake of Him instead of what the world would offer may not always make sense in the moment, and it may require us to act with self-control, sacrifice and wisdom, **but we can know that partaking of Jesus is always better!**

## Prayer Conversation Starter...

**Jesus, as I read Your story, I am continually in awe at how You handled each moment.** I am amazed to see You always reaching for the blessings of heaven and never settling for less. **Thank You for inviting me and instructing me to do the same...**

