

Do This in Remembrance of Me

READ: Luke 22:19-20

"... Do this in remembrance of Me."

Luke 22:19

This must be one of the most touching scenes in the Bible. Here was a room of people Jesus had chosen to mentor for over three years. He knew their hearts and what was in their minds. Many were still confused about His mission and one would deny and another would betray Him. Yet He would be giving up His life for them. He used the items of the meal – bread and wine – and requested that through these they would remember Him.

This important phrase – ‘in remembrance of’ – in Luke’s Gospel is found twice in 1 Corinthians 11:24,26. When we celebrate Holy Communion, Paul emphasises the vital importance on its meditation. We envision with heartfelt thanks that supreme Sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. This reminds us to live a holy life that flows from being united with the Lord in His death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 11:26 – 32). Done continually as Scripture enjoins, it is spiritually uplifting and strengthens our faith. We thus proclaim and honour the Lord’s death till He returns.

It has been said that our memories for the good received fades away all too soon. Perhaps this is the reason why the Holy Spirit has set many ‘remember’ passages in Scripture to encourage, warn and help us along our pilgrim way. How we need this to stir our memory and awaken our conscience. Our callous world requires us to diligently practise the spiritual discipline of meditation and solitude.

Consider, then, the following verses, a select few from a multitude that is available to anyone using a concordance.

Remembering the Lord and His words

“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel...” - 2 Timothy 2:8

“Remember the word that I said to you. A slave is not greater than his master. I If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep your also.” - John 15:20

Remembering to proclaim Scriptural truth

“Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.” - 2 Peter 1:12

Remembering to be grateful for mercies received

“For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before God on your account.” - 1 Thessalonians 3:9

Remembering to be generous and compassionate

“In every thing I showed you that in working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” - Acts 20:35

“Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.” - Hebrews 13 : 3

Remembering a warning

“Remember Lot’s wife.” - Luke 17:32 (Think on its relevance for our time)

“But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of suffering . . . Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.” - Hebrews 10 : 32,35,36

On the other hand, our gracious God made this promise to Israel under the New Covenant: “For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” - Hebrews 8:12, quoting Jeremiah 31:34

I began with a poignant scene of the One who, soon after that memorable Pass-over meal, was betrayed and arrested, deserted by his closest friends, subjected to brutal torture and a painful death by being nailed to a wooden cross. On that day was heard a cry in the gathering darkness that enveloped the land.

A cry that could have come from you and me.

“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.” - Luke 23:42