

BARAH MINISTRIES
The Lord's Supper - What Christ did at the Cross – February 9, 2014

**/ Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Good Morning!
Let's Make a Mental Shift**

Good morning!

**/TODAY'S STUDY
The Lord's Supper - What Christ did at the Cross**

/ROM 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.\

Before we get started, let's take a few minutes to reflect on our Lord and Savior, while we worship our Lord in song.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION
Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Worthy - June Murphy

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth... the Word of God...

Please help us today to learn about what You did on the cross for us. Help us to learn about the significance of that event and what that means to our lives.

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We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit... in Christ's name... Amen.

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Caleb Alburn
Deacon\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Caleb Alburn. I'm a Deacon here at Barah.

Before we continue onto The Lord's Supper, I want to start off with a few announcements...

/TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
February 9, 2014

/TODAY'S OFFERING
Deacon Denny Goodall\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

Even though we are sanctioned by God to charge for the many things we provide so you can worship God, we choose not to exercise our right. Therefore no price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

Even though the materials we provide are free of charge, they are not free of cost. We appreciate it when the Word of God motivates you to give financial support so as to provide for biblical teaching, both for yourself and for others.\

/OFFERING VERSE

LUK 9:44

"Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men."\<

/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

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2CO 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.

/OFFERING SONG

Guiding me Home

/TODAY'S STUDY

The Lord's Supper – What Christ did at the Cross

This lesson is dedicated to unbelievers or new believers who are turned off to God, because of the guilt imposed on you by hypocritical Christians.

I have lost count how many times I've talked to unbelievers or new believers who tell me that they feel guilty or inadequate by the standards Christianity places on them.

They end up getting burned out on church and stop coming, because they get tired of feeling like they're being judged. I can't tell you how many times I've had these conversations... and they always go the same way.

They find out that I'm a Deacon at a Christian church AND that I'm a real human being.

Once they find this out, their guard is down. They open up and they tell me exactly what I said earlier. They have nothing against Christianity... they're tired of imperfect Christians who tell them that they need to start acting perfect.

If you've experienced that, these next words are for you... You're perfect. Christ died and made you that way. You're not going to make a better version of Christ's perfection, and I'm not going to recommend you try.

So, just sit back and enjoy the lesson.

When I found out that I was going to be teaching the Lord's Supper, as you would expect my mind started focusing on the Cross... but not in the traditional way that you would think.

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I wasn't thinking about vocabulary words. I wasn't thinking about His Substitutionary Spiritual Death.

I was thinking about Christ's life on Earth. I was thinking about how amazing it was that He even came down.

I was thinking about the first part of John 1:14 that says...

/JOH 1:14a

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...\

I was thinking about the significance of that verse. I was thinking how amazing it was that our perfect Creator made it clear that we no longer need to strive to make ourselves perfect, because He did it for us.

I was thinking about Psalm 46:10 that tells us to...

/PSA 46:10

Cease striving and know that I am God;\

Now, that verse can be used as an evangelical tool, but I typically find myself saying that to Christians.

I find myself telling believers in Christ that they don't need to waste every second of their life failing at making themselves perfect, because Christ already did it for them.

They don't have to walk around with that guilt and feeling of inadequacy any longer. They can have confidence that God will fill up their deficiencies.

I was thinking how amazing it was that I didn't have to earn salvation... that I didn't have to work my way into Heaven.

Think about that for a second. You likely think that right now, or you have thought that before. And, if you did, then you know how daunting that task feels.

That's what was going through my mind when I found out I was going to be teaching on the Lord's Supper. I was thinking of the countless times I've heard people attack Christians for not being perfect.

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We've all heard that before. How many times have you heard someone get at you for doing something wrong, because you're a Christian, and Christians aren't supposed to do that...

And then it hit me... I realized that Christians caused that. Christians, striving to be perfect, have caused unbelievers to be turned off to Christianity, because all they see is hypocrisy.

All unbelievers see are sick, incurable, people trying to cure others with a placebo that they claim is an antidote.

That prescription that they try to give unbelievers is a nice and simple 1, 2, 3 process.

/1. You're a sinner.\

/2. Christ paid for your sins.\

/3. If you choose to believe that, then you need to prove it by paying Christ back for the rest of your life by trying to be perfect until you die.\

That's something that I just don't get. I don't understand that mindset that thinks that Christians need to make themselves perfect.

Let's put ourselves in the shoes of an unbeliever. Let's think about this from their perspective.

Are you drawn to Bible Thumpin' Holy Roller Goody Two Shoes who abstain from everything that life offers except telling you where you could be a better person?

Are you really going to listen to that? Are you drawn to that? Does that make you want to become a Christian?

This isn't me making this up. This is me talking to people who don't believe in Christ who tell me that this is why they don't believe in Christ.

They tell me that if this is Christianity then they'll take their chances in hell, because they don't want any part of that...

Nothing about that draws them in. There's nothing sexy about that sales pitch.

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What are we telling unbelievers?

/... hey, you don't like your life, and neither do we, so come join us...\

... let us help YOU wash YOUR sins away...

That's not even biblical. Where is Christ in all of that?

This is why I love the cross. This is what I think about. I think about the fact that Christ did all of this for me, before I was ever even was a Christian.

I think about John 3:16...

/JOH 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.\

I think about Acts 16:31...

/ACT 16:31

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...\

I think about Romans 10:9...

/ROM 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;\

That's what goes through my mind as I focus on the Lord's Supper. I think about Christ's life during His ministry. I think about how He wasn't focused on attempting to be perfect... He simply is perfect... and He passed that perfection on to us.

I think about how He was focus on others... and more specifically how He was focused on pouring every part of Him into every part of the people around Him.

Just imagine if we did that. Imagine if we did just 10% of that...

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Most people spend 24 hours a day filling themselves up, and when/if they overflow... then they can give to others.

That's not what Christ did. That's not what He tells us to do.

What if we all decided to empty ourselves out for everyone we come in contact with knowing that God is going to fill us up more than we ever could ourselves?

Why don't we believe the story of how God fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish? Let's turn there... go to Matthew, Chapter 14, Verses 15 through 21.

This takes place right after Jesus found out that John the Baptist was murdered...

/JOH 14:15

When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

/JOH 14:16

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!"

/JOH 14:17-18

They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." //And He said, "Bring them here to Me."

/JOH 14:19

Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds,

/JOH 14:20

And they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets.

/JOH 14:21

There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

So I ask you... why don't we believe this story? Why don't we believe that God can fill us up despite our deficiencies?

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Have you ever noticed that no matter how bleak your finances you, you ALWAYS seem to make into the next month.

Why do we feel that we can only give out of our abundance? Why not use faith and give out of our scarcity?

Why not take Jesus' advice and give first to God, and then watch God take care of you?

I teach that principal at work when I help people with their finances. I tell people that if you go to church, donate to your church. If you don't, then find an organization that you like.

I teach this, because God knows what He's talking about. I teach this, because we use money as a crutch and we depend on it, and our lives have an over emphasis on it.

Why do you think that God tells us to give to Him first? Because, we don't need it all, and He wants to show us that He'll take care of us.

What if we as a ministry decided to dedicate ourselves to pouring everything we have out for others with absolute confidence that God will fill us up?

I'll tell you what would happen... we would have already had a building with a paid staff and a growing flock.

We could adopt the motto of...

/GIVE to LIVE\

This is what I think about when I look back at the cross.

I think about how Christ was blatantly against the pharisaical attitude of acting and attempting to look perfect.

I think about how easy it is for us as a ministry to get caught up in pointing fingers and looking at the speck in other people's eyes while ignoring the log in our own.

I think about how Barah didn't earn or deserve to be the ministry that we've become today, but we're still blessed with this anyway.

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I think about how we didn't earn or deserve our salvation, but He still gave it to us anyway.

Just like we read about in Ephesians 2:8-9

/EPH 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; //not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.\

I think about salvation when I look back at the cross. I don't think about all the cool gifts that God has for me now that I'm a Christian.

I think about Romans 5:8

/ROM 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.\

I think about how amazing it was that even when I was His enemy God loved me.

Think about that! Ladies, try that on your man. Men, try that on your ladies... no matter how annoying they're being... no matter how mad they make you... you can still love them...

...and they might actually stand in the same awe that I do when I think about Romans 5:8...

This is the message that we need to get out to unbelievers... not one of condemnation. Not one that tells them that their life isn't up to standard.

We need to tell them Romans 5:8... that even when we were His enemy Christ went to the cross for us.

We need to tell people that if they were the only one in the world that God Himself would still come down for them.

And, you know how I know that? Because, He did it for Adam and Eve... and He did it for Noah. He would have done it for Sodom and Gomorrah. He did it for Lot. He's done it for Israel countless times... this list keeps going...

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That's what I think about during the Lord's Supper... that God loves us no matter what.

So, I ask that you think about that during The Lord's Supper . I ask you think about the fact that you don't earn salvation. I ask you think about the fact that once you're saved, you don't have to pay God back. He's not going to take that from you.

I ask you to believe what God tells you about your salvation in John 10:28...

/JOH 10:28

And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.\

Think about this as we partake in the Lord's Supper

First Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verses 23 through 26...

/1 COR 11:23

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;\

/1 COR 11:24

And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."\<

/1 COR 11:25

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."\<

/1 COR 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.\

Please partake of the elements...

/LORD'S SUPPER SONG

Give Thanks\<

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/BREAK

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

Ask yourselves this question this week during your studies. Ask yourself what verse best catches what it is you think about during the Lord's Supper. Which verse best encompasses the message that Christ is wanting to get across to you during your look back on the cross?

That's what I had to do. When I got assigned this lesson, I asked God what's the main point that He wanted me to get... He lead me to the book of John... and this is where my eyes went...

/JOH 10:10

The thief comes only to STEAL and KILL and DESTROY; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.\

I believe that verse! I really don't focus much on that first part. I focus on the last part... "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

I believe that! I believe that's what God wants for us. I believe that's what God wants for our lives. I believe that God wants us to live life abundantly.

Satan is that thief. And, he offers us the whole world and everything in it, just as he did Jesus... but it's empty, just as Jesus knew when He declined.

Let's turn in our Bibles to Matthew Chapter 4... verses 1 through 11...

/MAT 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.\

/MAT 4:2

And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.\

/MAT 4:3

And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."\

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/MAT 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

/MAT 4:5

Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

/MAT 4:6

And said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'"

/MAT 4:7

Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

/MAT 4:8

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

/MAT 4:9

And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

/MAT 4:10

Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

/MAT 4:11

Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

Jesus knew that Satan didn't have His best interest in mind. Jesus knew that no matter how sexy of an offer Satan made Him, that Satan comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

/Satan wants to STEAL you from God, and make you think you own yourself.

/Satan wants to KILL your hopes, and dreams, and aspiration, motivation, and perseverance.

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/Satan wants to DESTROY your life and leave you thinking that it's okay that you think your life is just... okay...\

If you look back on your life, you can see different times where Satan tried to steal, kill, and destroy you.

But, that's not what God wants for you. That's not why He went to the cross for you. He came so that you may have life, and have it abundantly.

That's what goes through my mind as I look back at the cross. Now, I don't know every way in the world that Christ gives me an abundant life, but I can tell you this... and this is what keeps me going...

Every time I open the Bible and study... every time I come to church and pay attention... every time I pray and LISTEN to what God is saying, I learn more and more about this abundant life that He gave and continues to give us.

So, again I ask you...

/What verse best catches what it is you think about during the Lord's Supper?\

/Which verse best encompasses the message that Christ is wanting to get across to you during your look back on the cross?\

Think about that this week. Our closing song is...

/CLOSING SONG

God is Walking me Thru\

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/JER 29:11

‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’\

/1 PE 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, //casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.\

/JUD 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, //to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.\

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

God, thank You for teaching us the importance of the Lord's Supper to unbelievers. Thank You for teaching us that we don't earn salvation, but instead that you give it to us freely. I pray that You continue to form this ministry into Your image. We pray that You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of Your person, Your thinking, Your work, Your reputation, and Your essence. And we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, and in Christ's name... Amen.

/Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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