

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

October 28, 2020

### John 6: 52 - 54

**52** The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? **53** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. **54** Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

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Pastor Tom began by explaining that the United Methodist Church has been known to follow the Wesleyan Theology in which John Wesley says , “There is a Mystery in Communion. What does that mean to you?

Vince noted - It is one of seven mysteries in the Catholic Church. These 7 would not be known or understood until you got to heaven in Christ’s presence.

-Meade shared - In Israel the communion cups were made from olive wood. He never felt so touched when taking communion before.

-Gary added - It is hard for some people to understand if they had not been brought up in the church. This is where faith comes in.

### Verse 52

*“The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”*

\*The Jews argued or questioned among themselves. Perhaps questions like we may ask God ourselves - Why does God do what He does? Or Why does God not do things He seems to not do? Or how can He do this?

## **Verse 53**

*“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”*

\*Verily, verily means pay attention to this! The only way to have life is to eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ.

Again in Methodism, they base their theology on the Quadrilateral:

1. **Scripture**
2. Experience
3. Reason
4. Tradition

So when we look at **scripture** dealing with Communion (the Eucharist, Lord's Supper, Receive the Sacrament of, or Break Bread) we look at **Matthew 26: 25 - 28**

*“25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*

\*According to verse 25, we see Judas (the one Jesus knew would betray Him) was present. We can conclude then that everyone is welcome at the table.

Pastor Tom was often posed the question - If a 2 year old came to the altar and wanted to take communion what would you do? The child cannot understand what the communion means. Pastor Tom would give the child communion with the comment - some adults who take communion don't even understand it!

Pastor Tom also related a story about sharing a funeral service with a Catholic priest. The priest apologized to Tom for not being allowed to give him communion during the service.

\*Part of the mystery of communion John Wesley was talking about - who knows the heart of anyone who comes to the table for communion? Perhaps they have messed up their life and are ready to commit to God. Or maybe they were believers but backslid. There is the idea that in this sacred act that God is moving in a sacred way to change a life.

## **Verse 54**

*“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

\*In times like these (dark) we need a promise from God: Jesus promises eternal life and to raise us up on the last day.

## **Refer to Luke 23:43**

*“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”*

\*One thief believed and one did not. The believer asked Jesus to remember him and Jesus replied, Today you will be with me in paradise.

\*So if you have trusted Jesus with your life, there will be an instant transition from this world to Heaven. And if you have not, then the instant transition will be to hell.

To further explain the promise of eternal life and rising up on the last day see:

## **I Thessalonians 4:13**

*13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

\*This is our belief system based on scripture from Paul. He does not want the Thessalonians to be uninformed about what happens when we die (those that sleep)

If we believe that Jesus died and rose then we will sleep in Jesus... God will bring about a reunion between the soul/spirit/essence and our physical body to become a glorified body.

If we are still alive when Jesus comes back, we'll be "caught up" (Latin root is where the word rapture comes from) to meet the Lord. The Scottish term is "a great quickening".

\*In regards to verse 18 - what comfort do you have if you don't have Jesus?

No other religion offers comfort:

Muslims - rely on good works out-weighing the bad to get to heaven

Same with Jehovah Witness and Mormons.

Buddists - nothing

Atheists - no hope or comfort

We can find the comfort that Jesus gives in what Jesus did, not in what we have done because Jesus did what we could not do.

\*In conclusion, we don't understand Communion but God has something going on...He's up to something.

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Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!

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