



Sunday, August 5, 2018

Pastor Keith Sovo

## **Intro to Luke 22:14-30**

It's a beautiful thing to think that God gives us tangible ways to help us envision the kingdom of God and our place in it. The Belgic Confession (one of the great statements of faith from the Reformation), puts it this way, "We believe that our good God, mindful of our crudeness and weakness, has ordained sacraments (ordinances) for us to seal His promises in us, to pledge good will and grace toward us, and also to nourish and sustain our faith. God has added these to the Word of the gospel to represent better to our external senses both what God enables us to understand by the Word and what He does inwardly in our hearts, confirming in us the salvation He imparts to us."

That is a powerful statement about how the Lord's table gives us a tangible experience of the kingdom of God. He knows our weakness, that spiritual things are not easily understood or applied, and that we need help remembering and understanding.

Thankfully, God is merciful and He is "mindful of our crudeness" such that He gives us the most basic of rituals—eating and drinking—to help us understand who Jesus is and the love He has for us.

## **Context**

Luke 22 (like the other passages in the Gospels that tell the story of the institution of the Lord's supper) immediately precedes the trip to Gethsemane, Jesus' arrest, trial, execution, and burial. It is especially powerful in the Luke's Gospel because he spends 10 chapters (9-19) narrating Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Immediately preceding that "travel narrative," Jesus predicts His own death. This is a remarkable thing to think about the kind of love that is demonstrated not just in suffering but in determination to suffer on behalf of the people He loves—us. And what a joy it is to remember His love for us when we celebrate His table!

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“The Table and the Kingdom”

Read Luke 22:14-30

The main reason we celebrate the Lord’s table is to re-orient ourselves to our place in the kingdom of God.

- I. The King and His table (14-24)
  - a. The suffering king
  - b. The king who desires to be with us
  - c. The king we don’t deserve
  
- II. The kingdom at our tables (25-27)
  - a. Not like the Gentiles
  - b. Jesus came to serve
  - c. We ought to serve one another
  
- III. The table in glory (28-30)
  - a. The table now is a promise of the table then
  - b. Only true disciples will be at the table then
  - c. There we will eat with the exalted king

