

# SACRAMENTAL LIVING

Pastor Bill Bowers | June 3, 2018

## *Come to the Table*

**Scripture:** Luke 22:7-20 (NLT)

A sacrament is “an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace.” —St. Augustine (5<sup>th</sup> Century)

“A mystery or sacrament is a holy act, through which grace, or, in other words, the saving power of God, works mysteriously upon man.”

– *From the Catechism of Saint Philaret (Drozdov) of Moscow*

- The cross **looks back** to the Passover, and the Passover **looks forward** to the cross.  
(Exodus 12:1-7, 12-14)
- It is easy to **remember** what we **should forget**, and **forget** what we **should remember**.  
(Revelation 12:11, 7:15; 1 Peter 1:19-19a)
- **Present once before** becomes **present once again**.

## HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Bill quoted St. Augustine, saying a Sacrament is “an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace.” How would you explain the term “invisible grace” to a friend? What does an invisible grace mean to you?
2. In the Gospel of John 6:22-59, Jesus compares himself to the manna that fed the Hebrews in the wilderness during the exodus (Exodus 16:31-35). In this comparison, he calls himself the “Bread of Life” and refers to his flesh and blood as “real food.” How do you interpret this passage of Scripture and what would you teach from it?
3. The institution of the Eucharist (Sacrament of Communion) is illustrated in Matthew’s Gospel 26:26-29 (see also Luke 22:17-20). Why do you think Jesus chooses to call his body bread and his blood wine as he teaches about the act of his crucifixion? Why is it so necessary to eat his flesh and drink his blood in this illustration (John 6:53-58)?
4. We have talked about the divine mystery that exists in the practice of the Sacraments. What would you describe as the divine mystery in the act of participation in the Sacrament of Communion? What do you think God is doing in this Sacrament? What divine mystery do you think takes place in the life of the person who participates (with faith) in the act of Communion?
5. What type of practical follow-up does the believer practice, if Jesus is revealing himself in metaphor to be consumed for the life of the world...and he invites, “follow me.”