

## Something for the Heart: *Remember me. . .*

*Do this in remembrance of me.* Luke 22:19

"Do this in remembrance of me?" We hear these words every time we take Holy Communion, but what exactly is it that we're being asked to remember? The eating and the drinking? The new covenant in Jesus blood? The forgiveness of sins?

Yes - all of these for sure. As Martin Luther tells us in the *Small Catechism*, "The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, *Given and shed for you for the remission of sins*. These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation."

Yes - we are called to remember all these things. But at the risk of ticking Marty off, I'd like to suggest that we are called to remember much more. We are called to not only remember this meal and Jesus' death and resurrection, but also Jesus' life. "Do this in remembrance of me" is a radical call to live as Jesus lived - not in some cutesy WWJD way, but in a way that takes seriously the life that Jesus lived, who he lived it with, and what his priorities were.

Yes - we are called to eat and drink in remembrance of Jesus, but we do so not just for ourselves, but for the sake of the world. When we break the bread and drink the wine, we come together with all those around the world who gather with us to eat and drink this meal - but we do it for the sake of those who are not yet at the table.

Just as Jesus came to earth as the embodiment of God, so, too are you now the embodiment of Christ. This is a huge responsibility - and so we come to the table and we receive this meal to give us strength for the task -- to build us up as the body of Christ sent into the world.

So, the next time you come to Communion - remember not just a man who lived over 2,000 years ago, but a savior who continues to be active and alive in the world - and in you! A God who says "Do this in remembrance of me" with all of your life.

### Quick Quips

God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar."

- *St. Maximilian Kolbe*

"How many of you say: I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes. You do see Him, you touch Him, you eat Him. He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment."

- *St. John Chrysostom*

There is a communion of more than our bodies when bread is broken and wine drunk.

- *M. F. K. Fisher*