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THE BEST MEAL IN HISTORY  
Matthew 26

There was a restaurant in Sacramento called the Capitol Dawg that had on its menu a hot dog called the Ultimate Dog. It sold for \$146! The restaurant closed a few years back. Gee, I wonder why? Aren't people lining up to buy \$146 hot dogs? Of course New York City can top that. In the restaurant of one of the Westins there they have a white truffle bagel that sells for \$1000. But they can top that in Italy. Chef Viola there has a pizza he calls the Louis XIII pizza that has lobster, caviar, eight cheeses and it is seasoned with hand picked Australian river salt. It sells for a cool \$12,000.

What is the most expensive meal you've ever had? I've never eaten anything close to as expensive as those items. I think the most expensive meal we've ever eaten happened in May. Toby and Anna gave us a gift certificate to Mama's Fish House on Maui. We called to get a reservation and were dismayed to learn the only opening they had was for lunch the day we arrived for our vacation. So we got off the plane that day, got a rental car and drove straight to the restaurant. It was pricey with a capital P. It's a place we would never eat were it not for the fact that we had a gift certificate. It just cost too much. But it was a terrific experience.

What's the most expensive meal you've ever had? I'm pretty sure that was ours. But there is a better meal than that one, and it is infinitely more expensive. In fact, it is the most expensive meal in history. But it is also the best most satisfying meal in all of creation. We will learn about this meal in Matthew 26.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW:

JESUS WAS ANOINTED BY MARY

The opponents of Jesus at this point were focused on shutting him up permanently. They had tried to debate him and discredit him but their efforts only ended up making them look worse and him look better. They could not deny his brilliance, his unimpeachable character or his powerful works, so all they could do was kill him. They poured their efforts into finding a way to do that without causing a riot.

Jesus knew how it was all going to end and told his followers what was going to happen. Not only would he be killed, but in the worst way imaginable. He would

be crucified. They just didn't believe it would come to that. How could Jesus, who had power even over nature, not keep that from happening?

One woman, John tells us it was Mary the sister of Lazarus, believed what Jesus said. She was filled with both gratitude to Jesus because he had brought her brother back from the dead, and grief. The only way she could think of to express her appreciation for Jesus was with an extravagant, outrageously expensive gift. Mary poured out an entire bottle of expensive perfume on Jesus. How expensive? In John's account he tells us that onlookers estimated the value of the perfume at 300 denarii. A denarius was generally a day's wage for a day laborer and 300 would amount to a year's wage. In today's terms that would come out to about \$36,000!

This was not Mary deciding Jesus needed new wheels and being so desperate to express her love and appreciation that she went out and did an outrageous thing like buy him an Audi A4 that comes in right at 36K. That would be an extravagant gift, but it is a useful one. What Mary did was not even useful. It was perfume. Typically when a person uses perfume they use just a few drops. She dumped the entire bottle on Jesus. The aroma must have been overpowering.

The fact that it was perfume, not something useful, made it all the more extravagant. I have this problem. My wife loves bling. That's because she's a woman. This is a problem because real bling, quality bling these days, feels to me like it's in the same league as Mary's perfume when it comes to cost. I walk into a jewelry store and see some pretty items. But have you noticed they hide the prices from you? Most of the jewelry stores are not like a car dealerships where they have a big sign on the windshield blaring the price of the car for all the world to see. Oh, no, the jeweler wants you to ask them to take the little gem out of the case so you can see it up close and personal. Only then do they drop the bomb and tell you the price, whereupon you begin hyperventilating. Then you look for a way to gracefully leave. Why do they do that? Do they think that once you see it up close you are going to be so astounded by it that you think money is no object? Hey, news flash, Mr. Jeweler. Money is an object. A big one. What I struggle with is I look at that little bauble with its absurdly inflated price tag, and I can see that it doesn't do anything. Will it make my wife smarter, stronger, better at managing finances, more talented? No, it won't do any of that. It's not going to help my wife in any way. Oh but a woman might say it is a beautiful accessory that completes her ensemble. I try to tell her that those absurdly priced rip offs are useless for her, because she's so beautiful that she totally eclipses them. It's embarrassing for diamonds to be worn by her because no one will even notice them. They just

admire her. That's what I tell her. And I believe it. Unfortunately it is the very extravagance of that useless but outrageously priced piece of jewelry that communicates the message of love and appreciation. Some people hammered Mary for her extravagance. Haters will always find something to hate. But Jesus didn't criticize her outrageous extravagance. On the contrary, He did the opposite. He commended her. What is the greatest commandment? It is to love God with all that is within you. Mary did that. Sure, there were other potential uses for the money spent on that gift. But Mary understood there is nothing more important than loving Jesus, the Lord of all. She did indeed love him with all her heart, soul and mind. And she wanted him to know it. She understood that loving the Lord is not a duty. It is not an obligation to be met. It is a passion that must be expressed. And expressing it is the highest good.

#### JESUS TAUGHT HIS MEN WITH A MEAL

Following that incident and the account of Judas selling Jesus out, we see the account of the very first time the Lord's Supper occurred. Jesus told the guys that one of them would betray him, which depressed them. Then Jesus passed out the bread, then the juice of communion and they all ate and drank. We will return to this part of the chapter in a few minutes.

After that meal Jesus had more depressing news for them. All of them would abandon him. Peter loudly objected, proclaiming he would never do such a thing. Jesus said, "I hate to tell you this, Rocky, but you will, and you'll do it 3 times tonight!"

#### JESUS FACED A TERRIFYING FUTURE

Following the meal Jesus took the guys to a place called Gethsemane. This was a spot in the olive orchard on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem. There Jesus went through that dark night of the soul where he dealt with the terrifying events about to happen to him.

Have you ever had to go through something that you dreaded? Yeah there was that time I had to give a 4 minute speech in class when I was a sophomore in high school and I dreaded it so much it felt like I was going to throw up. Do you know what that feeling is like? I can't even imagine what Jesus must have felt. What he was about to experience was horrifying. He was going to be subjected to a barrage of vitriol and hatred. He was going to be treated utterly unjustly. He was going to be rejected in a way I can't even imagine. He was going to be hatefully ridiculed. He was going to be tortured severely and repeatedly. He was going to experience

more pain than I have ever imagined. And he was going to take on himself the horrifying guilt of all the wrong, all the evil of the human race for all time. He was going to have it dropped on him! He was going to be killed in a way designed to be so horrific that it served as a drastic warning to all. It was so bad it served as deterrent to even the most evil, violent and incorrigible criminals in that society.

He didn't want to do it. Who would? It is easy to forget that Jesus was fully human. He felt every ounce of the horror that awaited him. In a very human moment he asked his loving Father in prayer, "Is there any other way? I really don't want to do this, Father." But then he repeatedly said, "But more than I don't want to do it, I do want to do your will. If this is what it requires, then so be it. Your will, not mine, Father."

#### **JESUS WAS ARRESTED AND TRIED**

He committed to do the will of the Father, and then it was upon him. A large crowd armed with swords and clubs showed up, being directed by Judas. They arrested Jesus and took him to the Sanhedrin, which was a gathering of all the leaders of Israel. They had a kangaroo trial with lying witnesses and false accusations. But finally when asked point blank if he was the Messiah, Jesus said, "You said it. Some day you will see me sitting on the right hand of Almighty God and coming in the clouds of heaven." Case closed. In their minds he was guilty as charged of total blasphemy, punishable by death. Then the torture and ridicule began.

#### **JESUS WAS DENIED BY HIS FRIEND**

In the last section of the chapter Jesus had one more sorrow, one more indignity heaped upon him. His closest friend, Peter, who at least had hung around to see what would happen to Jesus, was pointed out by a servant. She identified him as one of Jesus' disciples, and Peter, who was on the verge of wetting his pants, absolutely denied it. Fearing he would soon be sharing Jesus' fate, which had been clearly and repeatedly described by Jesus, Peter crashed and burned. Three times, the last time with all the cursing a rough fisherman could muster, Peter denied knowing anything about Jesus. His boast of loyalty earlier in the evening now lay in flames.

#### **JESUS' SPECIAL "MEAL" TEACHES US MUCH**

*This meal was about our rescue*

This took place on the night Jesus celebrated the Passover with his guys. Most of us are not Jewish, so this is not really a part of our traditions. But the Passover had big implications for what happened that night.

Everything is going along as expected and now the meal is about over. But then Jesus does something completely unexpected, something that you've never done before. He picks up some bread and hands it out to everyone. You're thinking, "You've got to be kidding, Jesus. I couldn't eat another bite. Why do you think we need bread now?" But Jesus says something totally mystifying. He says, "Take this bread and eat it. This is my body." What are you supposed to make of that? Somehow he is saying that this bread represents his body, it is a symbol of it. Then he follows that up by pouring some wine and saying, "This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." What is this all about?

What was Passover about? It was about the time when Israel was enslaved in Egypt with no way to get free. That night God worked a miracle to save them. God rescued them and set them free. Jesus was tying his body and blood to that imagery. The whole evening was about God rescuing his people. Jesus was pointing to another rescue by God, an even bigger one. The Passover event in fact was intended to be an historical picture of this rescue.

Notice that in verse 28 Jesus said the wine represented his blood of the covenant "which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." What Jesus was doing was setting us free from the guilt and penalty of our sins. He was doing more than freeing us from physical slavery. He was freeing us from spiritual slavery. Matthew 1:21 tells us that after Mary was found to be pregnant an angel appeared to Joseph and told him they should give the boy the name Jesus "because he will save his people from their sins." From the beginning Jesus' purpose in this world was to rescue us. What we most need to be rescued from is our sin!

The life and work of Jesus are profound beyond human understanding. God entered into this world in human form, and the driving purpose of his life on this planet was to suffer and die on our behalf. This is what was necessary to save us from our sin. We need to pay attention to that. Jesus didn't come to save us from poverty. He didn't come to save us from political oppression. He didn't come to give us more education. He didn't come just to give us more self esteem. There were countless things Jesus could have come to save us from, but he came to save us from our sins. The centerpiece of history, the most astounding miracle, the greatest work of all time, was the life and work of Jesus Christ. God mounted this monumental mission because it was aimed at accomplishing the most important goal in all of creation. In other words, saving us from our sins was the most crucial and essential thing God could do.

Do you get what this means? It means at the core of all of life, the biggest issue every human must deal with is sin. The most fundamental question of life, the heart of all of the problems of the human condition is spiritual. It is sin that somewhere down deep is at the heart of the emotional and psychological problems of human beings. It is sin that causes all of the pain and suffering of the human race, every tiny bit. It is sin that causes hatred, fear, emptiness, hopelessness, injustice, prejudice, racism, war, and home owners associations. And that sin thing is in all of us, warping us and damaging us and others.

This says until we experience the rescue that Jesus came to effect, our lives will always be out of kilter. Even in the best of moments we will have this nagging awareness that something is not right, something is missing or distorted somehow.

In the early years of Laurie's and my ministry here there was a guy in our church named Tom who was really funny. I really liked him. He was a good athlete, and just a great guy. In those days we were young and everyone in our church loved to go to the beach to body board, surf or body surf. Tom grew up in an area a long way from the ocean and he was not a great swimmer. But he quickly took to the ocean sports. He loved it. Maybe too much. One day he was out body surfing and he got caught in a rip. Fairly quickly he found himself in trouble. He was fighting for all he was worth and going backward. After a time he was growing frighteningly weak and began to realize he was in some serious peril. Just about that time a surfer paddled close to him and said, "Hey, you look like you're struggling. Do you need any help?" Tom told him he did, rather badly. The surfer told him to grab onto his board, and he paddled him back to the beach, where he collapsed on the sand, thanking God for solid ground and vowing never to go in the ocean again.

If that surfer had come along and offered Tom a lot of money, or to give him some food, or to simply offer him praise or encouragement, he would have been of no help. Tom needed someone to save his life. Tom had to admit his need and accept the help that was being offered to him. If he had said to the surfer, "No, no, I'm good. I got this," he would have died that day. So we start with recognizing Jesus came to rescue us from the worst problem that every one of us has. And second we must accept that we do indeed need to be rescued.

*We could not rescue ourselves*

We cannot rescue ourselves. If we can help ourselves then we don't need to be saved. We could fix our problem on our own. In the incident I just related, Tom had to admit that he could not solve his problem. He needed someone to save him, and things were only going to get worse until he admitted that and accepted the offer of rescue.

We cannot solve our problem on our own. This is the fundamental failure of all religions and philosophies. They approach the problem saying, "What must we do to fix the human condition? How do we solve our problem?" But that is like the failing swimmer about to go down for the last time asking how he can solve his problem. He can't. He needs someone to do it for him, to rescue him. And that is true of us as well. No amount of greater wisdom and insight, more education, more determination to do better, more money or better circumstances are going to save us. We need someone with the power to rescue us to show up and help us. And that is exactly what Jesus did.

Think of the symbols of bread and juice. They sustain us. But they give us something we cannot give ourselves. We need to eat food and drink in order to live. We cannot find the nourishment our bodies need any other way. We cannot provide it for ourselves.

*We simply receive our rescue*

Why did Jesus pick bread and wine as symbols of his body and blood? Think of wheat growing in a field. The grain as it stands in the field doesn't do our bodies much good. It has to be harvested, then ground up and turned into flour for it to provide nourishment for us. So the grapes have to be crushed to yield their juice that we can then drink.

The bread and the juice that come from the wheat and grapes are essential to us. Without food and drink we will not survive. You can live possibly as long as 8 weeks without food, but without fluid you will be dead within a week. A number of years ago when Toby was just an EMT he was on flight coming home from Hawaii. The flight attendants made an announcement asking that anyone with medical training identify themselves to the crew. He didn't do anything at first, assuming surely there would be a doctor or nurse on board. But no one did anything, so he pushed his call button. When the crew member came he told her he was an EMT. She was greatly relieved. She took him to a teenaged girl who had fainted. Toby examined her and concluded that she was dehydrated. They gave her

lots of juice and she bounced right back. We are completely dependent upon food and fluid, without them we die.

Jesus used the bread and juice as symbols of his body and blood, broken and shed on our behalf. By that he meant we are as totally dependent upon them for spiritual life as we are dependent on physical sustenance for physical life. In John 6 Jesus upset a lot of people by using this analogy of eating and drinking. In verses 53-54 he said, “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.” Well yuck. That sounds like cannibal religion. Many were offended by those words and wrote Jesus off.

But they weren’t listening. In verses 47-48 he said, “The one who believes (in me) has eternal life. I am the bread of life.” In other words, eating and drinking symbolized believing in Jesus. He did not mean it literally then, and he didn’t mean it in this passage. In order for me to survive I have to believe that eating and drinking can sustain me, and that in fact they are essential to life. It’s kind of funny, but some kids go through this phase where it’s hard to get them to eat. Ella was once great at eating, but she is in an odd phase where she seems to think at times that it’s unnecessary and she resists it. Although she always seems eager to eat Yampa cookies. Apparently she is convinced they are the bread of life.

So the message is this: here’s what sustains life spiritually. Here is what rescues us from the root problem of the human condition. It is to believe in Jesus and partake of him. It is to accept what he has come to do for us and rely on that as the answer to our greatest needs.

Other religions and philosophies consistently tell us to rescue ourselves. Jesus says he has a meal for us that will sustain us forever, will give us true life that will never end. All we need to do is receive it and eat of it. Rely on this meal for the life we desire. That receiving consists of believing in Jesus, relying on him.

A lot of confusion and controversy and superstition could be avoided if people would just read this passage and think. Did Jesus literally mean the bread was his body and the wine his blood? Given that he was standing there fully physically present clearly not. The bread symbolized something as did the wine. Partaking of them symbolized simply believing that Jesus is God in human form, that he died to take the punishment for all our wrong so that we don’t have to, that he rose from



the dead to bring us eternal life. It is believing in those things and relying on them as the source of life and hope.

*Our rescue was costly beyond calculation*

Our root problem is no small matter. It was a huge problem far beyond our ability to solve, and this was true for all the billions of people on the planet. To solve such a massive problem required something massive. It required something massively costly.

Rescue is often a big ticket item. The Coast Guard effects more rescues than anyone else in our nation. Its annual budget for accomplishing those rescues is \$680 million, apart from man hours and training! What our rescue took was for Jesus to leave a perfect existence in the spiritual realm, enter this world and experience the most difficult things, the worst pain and suffering it has to offer, then die on our behalf. Try to estimate the size of his sacrifice, then, since he is infinite, multiply it by infinity, and you will have the cost of our rescue.

## IMPLICATIONS

### OUR RESCUE GUARANTEES LIFE

When we put our faith in Jesus, we partake of him, his body and blood will do its work. It will bring us life. When we eat food and drink fluids they do what they are supposed to do. They sustain our lives. When we partake of Jesus, he does what he came to do. He gives us life.

We are guaranteed eternal life. But even now we begin to experience that life. He connects us with God, which is essential for life. He forgives us and sets us free from soul-killing guilt. He fills us with his grace, that enables us to stop trying to perform and earn something. It enables us to be at peace. He gives us hope. He saturates every aspect of our lives with meaning and purpose. He brings us joy and love. All of these things happen when we believe in Jesus.

Theology professor and author Wayne Brouwer tells of an older, experienced pastor who was asked how a professor could teach pastors about the meaning of the Lord's Supper. He said he would begin by teaching them to cook. That seemed odd, so why cooking? He said you cannot understand what communion is really about until you understand the joy of someone who is truly satisfied by a delicious meal. Jesus' supper is the most satisfying meal ever, because it gives us what we desire most in the world, to be at peace with God, at peace with ourselves, to have the certainty of eternal life, and to have God's life in us right now.

As we were eating at Mama's Fish House I looked at Laurie and was surprised to see that she was crying. I thought maybe she was crying because of the exorbitant prices, but that wasn't it. I said, "Are you all right?" She said, "It's just that it is so beautiful here and everything is just perfect." That is the only time in the 40 years that I've known Laurie that has ever happened. She was totally satisfied. That's what the the Lord's Supper should do for us.

In John 6:35 Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus gives us the most satisfying meal we have ever had or ever will have because it fills us so that we never need anything again. He said something very similar in John 4:13-14. "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The problem is most of us find ourselves hungering and thirsting for all kinds of things. Most of us feel like life is not as satisfying as we wish it were. So we conclude either there is something wrong with us, or what Jesus said just is not true. What's going on here?

Those words of Jesus made a huge impression on John. Think about his life for a bit. He was one of the owners of a thriving business, Zebedee and Sons Fishing Company. They were doing fine, but life for him was going out on the boat most days, working hard early in the morning for the day's catch, then hauling it back to shore, negotiating to sell the fish, then cleaning the nets and the boat and preparing for the next day's work. Then it was home for a bit of time with the family and dinner, go to bed, get up before the sun and do it all over again. He would do that day after day, probably until he died. And likely his kids would do much the same all of their lives. No doubt some times he thought about life and what it was all about. What was the point of it? There is no point. It's just work to survive until you die. But he was a good Jewish man. He knew there was a Creator. He'd heard the stories of how the God of Israel had done incredible things in their history. But God didn't show up in his world. And he knew that as a common man he failed when it came to all those laws the Pharisees taught them about. He knew he could never be like those religious guys. He felt guilty over his failings and he felt frowned upon by God. Hew knew some day he would be judged, and he would fail in that judgment. He felt guilt, disconnection from God, and had little to no hope for the future.

Then along came Jesus, offering him the bread of life and his living water. Everything changed. In Jesus he found that God forgave him. God loved and accepted him. He found he had enormous worth in God's eyes. He was given acceptance into God's eternal kingdom, so he had confident hope. He also gained an eternal reference point for his life, which now took on meaning that will go on forever. He gained all that had been missing, and nothing would ever take it away. It was the ultimate satisfying meal.

The same is true of us in Christ. The Lord's Supper is the ultimate in satisfaction, for it means we will never hunger or thirst for forgiveness, freedom from guilt, love and acceptance from God, a living connection and relationship with him, hope for the future, incredible sense of worth, and a life bursting with meaning and purpose that is eternal. All of those are things we hunger for, and Christ gives them to us to the point that we are completely satisfied.

But still Christians seem at times to feel something is missing, to feel hunger for more. Why is that? When that happens to us we can know that we are trying to find something in some place besides Christ. Usually it is approval or a sense of worth, or we are not resting completely in Christ's work for us and we are trying to find freedom from guilt apart from him.

#### OUR RESCUE IS COMPLETE

When my friend, Tom, was rescued by that surfer and flopped down on the beach, what did he need to do to complete his rescue? Nothing! He had been rescued. It was done. He was safe and there was no more he could do to complete that task.

Jesus has rescued us. Once we put our faith in him we are safe. We have been given life. We will be tempted to feel like we are unworthy of it and somehow we have to go out and work hard to be deserving of it, or to keep it. But it has been done. It is complete. Colossians 2:13-14 says God, "forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross."

Every month I receive a certificate of indebtedness. It is our mortgage statement. It tells how much I owe. Imagine that some incredibly kind and generous person decided he or she cared about us so much that they wanted to help us. So this gracious individual goes to Wells Fargo, finds out what the certificate of indebtedness is against us, in other words, how much we owe, and pays the whole

amount! What do I need to do then about that mortgage? Nothing. It is paid. It is done. There is not one single thing more I either can or need to do about it.

That is what Jesus has done for us. It's all paid. There is nothing more we must do to gain this rescue. What more can we do that would add to what Jesus did for us? What did that priceless sacrifice not cover? Nothing. So be at peace.

#### OUR RESCUE ESTABLISHES OUR WORTH

We have a neighbor whose house is on the real estate market. She's trying to sell it. When we heard how much she was asking I figured she'd lost her mind. Her house is the same model as ours, and I at first thought she'd way over estimated the value of the home. I thought she was off by a good \$50,000, if not more. To my surprise I learned she had been offered about 30,000 under her asking price. She didn't take it, and I thought she was nuts. This was still thousands above the maximum I thought the house might go for and even that seem outrageous to me. She left the house on the market, but she recently told us she had sold it. She didn't get what she had asked for, but she did get another offer about the same as the first one. After wasting a month she took it.

What determined what that house is actually worth? It wasn't what I estimated it to be. It wasn't what she over estimated it to be. It was what someone was willing to pay for it. So what determines what you are worth? It's not what you estimate your worth to be. It's not what someone else estimates your worth. It is what God paid to rescue you.

One of our biggest mistakes is trying to ground our worth in the approval of others, in our ability to impress them with our intelligence, wit, charm, good looks, strength, talents, abilities, success or possessions. We expend so much energy trying to create and maintain an image, and that image is all about our worth. And it is all pointless and useless. That image has zero relevance to our true worth. Our real worth is that God valued us so enormously that he sent his Son to pay the horrible price necessary for him to have us as his children.

#### OUR RESCUE IS CENTRAL TO OUR IDENTITY

Why did Jesus instruct us to go through this act of eating the bread and drinking the juice as a way of remembering him? It is because that act reminds us of who we are. It reminds us of our worth in Christ. It reminds us that we belong to him, that we were bought with a price. It reminds us that we are children of the kingdom of God.

Some time back the BBC carried some stories on memory. Adam Zeman, a professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology, wrote about memory loss and identity. He talked about two of his patients who have suffered amnesia. One said, “My memory of my past is a blank space. I feel lost and hopeless.” One of them said, “I don’t have the moorings that other people draw on to know who they are.” In other words, the loss of memory robs them of their identity. This has a big impact in another way. Zeman said, “The inability to invoke the past greatly impedes their ability to imagine a future.” So inability to remember takes away ones identity and the ability to imagine a future.

This is crucial to our unity. When we remember we know that though we have been greatly blessed, we do not deserve it, we have not earned it, and it came to us at infinite cost to God. This means we are all on the same level. There is no competing here. The good news is either good news for everyone or it is good news for no one. It is good news, for no matter who we are or what we have done, God has purchased us for himself. This is why it is called communion. We are united together.

Jesus has us remember that we have partaken of him because it tells us who we are and it gives us a future. He says we will celebrate with him in his future kingdom. That is our future.

#### OUR RESCUE SHOULD FILL US WITH GRATITUDE

Remember my illustration of that amazing, but unfortunately imaginary, person who paid off our mortgage. What do you think I would feel about that individual? Would I resent them? Would I take them for granted? Would I decide that they owed it to me to do that? No, I would be blown away. It would be so astounded I wouldn’t even know how to thank them. But I would try my very best to express my profound thanks. And every time I thought of that person I would want to thank them again.

And that is how we should relate to our God. He has canceled the certificate of debt against us. We remind ourselves of that truth when we take of the Lord’s supper. And more than anything else, we should be eternally joyful and grateful in his presence.



