

SLIDE Children's Moment

February 16, 2014

Theme: **SLIDE** Forgiving and Forgiven

Object: Offering Basket

Scripture: “If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24 ESV)

I'm sure you all know what this is. (*Hold up offering basket.*) It is the offering basket. I bring my offering as a gift to God -- it is a very important part of my worship. Most of us have probably brought our offering today to give to God. There are many places in the Bible that teach us the importance of presenting an offering to God, but the truth is that God is more interested in what's in our heart than He is in what's in our hand.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you will be subject to judgment.' But I say, even if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment." He went on to say that you would face God's judgment if you call someone a bad name or curse them.

What did Jesus say we should do if we are guilty of any of these things? Jesus said, **SLIDE** “If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Before we give our offering today, perhaps we should ask ourselves a few

questions. Have we been angry with someone this week? Have we had any arguments lately? Have we called someone a bad name? Have we said something about someone that wasn't true? If so, we should ask God to forgive us and we should go to the person we have hurt and ask them to forgive us. When we have done that, God will be pleased with our offering. **SLIDE**

Heavenly Father, we would not think of committing murder, but we sometimes say things in anger that hurt other people. Help us to guard against hateful and hurtful words and forgive us as we ask those we have hurt to forgive us as well. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Lord's Supper, also called the "*Eucharist*" (meaning "thanksgiving" in Greek), it holds deep significance for believers and is a declaration of one's continual dependence upon Christ's life and a regular reminder of His soon return. **Have men past out the elements.**

By partaking of the bread in communion, we acknowledge that Jesus is our source of life. Indeed, He is the Bread of Life whereby we may satisfy our spiritual hunger.

Jesus said, **SLIDE** "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." (John 6:51 NASB) When Jesus broke the unleavened bread and gave it to His disciples, He illustrated that His body and His life would be broken in order that they might have life.

The broken body of Jesus ushered in the **new covenant**, signified by the temple veil tearing in two. The writer of Hebrews said, **SLIDE** "Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a **new and living way** which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh." (Hebrews 10:19-20 NASB) This "**new and living way**" is by His Spirit, allowing us to approach God with a heart made pure by the body and blood of Jesus. The resurrected body of Jesus validates the **new covenant**, because the same Holy Spirit that rose up Jesus from the dead is the same Holy Spirit dwelling in us as the children of God, we know with certainty - Jesus will raise believers at the last day!

The breaking of bread with other believers also signifies fellowship within the Body of Christ and unity by the Holy Spirit. The Body of Christ is strengthened and Jesus is glorified when the Body serves one another in humility and shares blessings in

selfless love. Paul wrote, **SLIDE** “Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread (Jesus).” (1 Corinthians 10:17 NASB) **Let us eat the Bread of Life.**

The symbol of the cup represents blood, which signifies suffering and death. Blood is the life of the body, but when it is poured out, death occurs. The Father gave Jesus a cup of suffering to drink, requiring Him to be the sacrificial Lamb of atonement for sin and to pour out His sinless blood through a torturous death - for only the shed blood of Jesus can cleanse and make permanent atonement for all sin.

Jesus submitted Himself to His Father's will and drank the dark and terrible cup of wrath for our sin. **SLIDE** “He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (Christ).” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NASB)

By partaking of the communion cup, we commit to follow Jesus no matter the cost. Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath for our sin, but we are to partake in the cup of His sufferings for righteousness' sake. Jesus said, **SLIDE** “If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.” (John 15:20 NASB). Paul knew from experience that **SLIDE** “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12 NASB). Likewise, Peter encouraged believers to respond to suffering even as Christ did, **SLIDE** “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps ... while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him (God) who judges righteously. (1 Peter 2:21 & 23 NASB)

Just as the Passover was a symbol of the “old covenant”, so the Lord's Supper is a symbol of the “new covenant.” We partake in the Lord’s Supper and thus show that

we are willing to experience both Jesus' life and suffering death in our daily walk and look forward to resurrection. The Apostle Paul said it best; **SLIDE** "That I may know Him and the **power of His resurrection** and the **fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the **dead.**" (Philippians 3:10-11 NASB) Christians remember the sacrificial death of the Lamb of God for their sin while anticipating Jesus' return. King David knew only the **old covenant**, yet by faith he believed in the **new covenant** and declared, **SLIDE** "I shall lift up the **cup of salvation** and call upon the name of the **LORD.** (Psalm 116:13 NASB) King David believed in the coming of Jesus. We believe that Jesus came and we await His return. **Drink the cup of Christ's suffering for our salvation.**

Pray