

Summary

This sermon focuses on the two sacraments God has given us to address our memory problems: communion and baptism. The pastor explains that we have two memory issues - we forget what we need to remember and remember what we need to forget. Jesus instituted communion during the Last Supper to help us remember His sacrifice, love, and our identity as free children of God rather than slaves. Baptism serves as a 'water grave' that helps us forget our old life and remember our new identity in Christ. The sermon emphasizes that baptism is an act of obedience and public declaration of faith, not a requirement for salvation, which comes through grace alone.

Intro Prayer

Father, as we gather together today, we thank You for Your love and grace. We acknowledge that we often struggle with memory - forgetting the truths we need to hold onto and remembering things we need to let go of. Open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us through Your Word today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and give us the courage to respond in obedience to whatever You're calling us to do. We pray that our time together would draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you've forgotten recently that you really needed to remember, or something from your past that you wish you could forget?

Key Verses

1. Mark 14:22-24
2. Acts 2:38
3. Romans 6:3-4
4. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to use familiar Passover elements to institute communion? What does this teach us about how God works in our lives?
2. The pastor mentioned that 'your posture communicates your position.' How does this apply to both the physical act of reclining during Passover and our spiritual posture today?
3. What are some truths about your identity in Christ that you tend to forget when you're anxious or afraid?
4. How does understanding baptism as a 'water grave' change your perspective on leaving your old

life behind?

5. The sermon states that baptism separates 'spectators from those who are in the game.' What does it mean to you to go from being a spectator to being actively engaged in following Christ?
6. Why do you think Jesus began His ministry with baptism and ended His earthly ministry commanding His followers to baptize others?
7. How can communion and baptism serve as powerful reminders when the enemy tries to bring up past shame or guilt?
8. What role does community play in both communion and baptism, and why is it important that these aren't just private experiences?

Life Application

This week, take time each day to remember one truth about your identity in Christ that you tend to forget. Write it down and reflect on how this truth should impact your daily decisions and interactions. If you haven't been baptized since making a decision to follow Christ, prayerfully consider taking that step of obedience.

Key Takeaways

1. We have two memory problems: we forget what we need to remember and remember what we need to forget
2. Communion helps us remember Christ's sacrifice, our freedom, and our identity as beloved children of God
3. Baptism is a 'water grave' that symbolizes leaving our old life behind and beginning new life in Christ
4. Baptism is an act of obedience and public declaration of faith, not a requirement for salvation
5. Both sacraments serve as powerful reminders of God's love and our new identity when we face fear, anxiety, or condemnation

Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us these beautiful reminders of Your love and grace through communion and baptism. Help us to remember who we are in Christ - forgiven, loved, and set free. When the enemy tries to remind us of our past failures, help us to remember the moment we were made new in You. Give courage to those who need to take the step of baptism, and help all of us to live out our identity as Your children every day. May we never forget that we are not slaves but sons and daughters, free to recline at Your table. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.