

Casting Your Cares on Jesus

BREAD

So many times in my life, when we come to this part of the service to observe Jesus Christ's death by eating the Lord's Supper, I have often heard people say things like, "Leave your cares and worries outside," or, "It's time to shut out of our minds the things of this world." Now, I understand their point. This is a time to focus on our Lord's sacrifice and not get distracted from it. However, what if this is the best time to think about our cares and our worries and all the things we are burdened with? Instead of leaving our daily lives at the door, shouldn't we invite everything that is in our lives to this moment by saying, "Bring your cares, your worries, and all your burdens and lay them at the cross beneath the feet of Jesus," or, "Jesus, I take all the things of this world and I surrender them over to You and Your healing power." We ought to have this kind of attitude. For the apostle Peter said, "Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1Pet 5:7) Even Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28) How do we expect to find rest in Jesus when we neglect to give everything over to Him?

Our troubles in this life should not be the only thing we bring to the cross of Jesus. This is a time to consider whatever sins we may be dealing with. Above all else, our sins need to given to Jesus Christ. Paul tells us, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (1Cor 11:28) One way we should discern the Lord's body is by examining whatever sins are in our lives. For Jesus took our sins upon His own body! Peter also said, "He bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed." (1Pet 2:24) Hebrews 9:26 says, "Now He has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself." This is a time when we bring our sins to the cross in order to die to them and not sin any longer. Examine yourself. What sins are you holding on to and not surrendering to Jesus Christ?

Jesus gave His body as a sacrifice and He lives today. We are called to do the same: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God." (Rom 12:1) In order for us to present our bodies as a sacrifice to Jesus, we must sacrifice our entire lives over to Him. This includes all our worries, all our cares, all our burdens, and all our sins. Nothing is to be kept from our Savior. When everything is given to the Lord, He will purify us from all these things.

Finally, I want to share with you the lyrics from the hymn titled In the Hour of Trial by James Montgomery.

With forbidden pleasures would this vain world charm,
Or its sordid treasures spread to work me harm,
Bring to my remembrance sad Gethsemane,
Or, in darker semblance, cross-crowned Calvary.

Should Your mercy send me sorrow, toil and woe,
Or should pain attend me on my path below,
Grant that I may never fail Your hand to see;
Grant that I may ever cast my care on Thee.

FRUIT of the VINE

Pray.