I. **Slide1 Announce:**

A. Slide2-5 Tony: REAL. Father/Son. Married. Children’s.

B. Slide6 Holocaust Memorial Day: Today at Town Square Park 1-5pm.

C. Slide7 Noah & Kassie Denny (Ezra, Evelyn): Zambia. Breath of Heaven. 1 time gifts needed (15,000)

II. **Slide8 Intro: Venomoid Communion**

A. Christianity celebrates 2 Sacraments: [sacramentum/something sacred. Orig used for a Roman soldiers oath of faithfulness on enlistment. Yearly, a soldier was supposed to return back to Rome to renew their allegiance]

1. 1 Cor.11:27 *as often as you eat this bread & drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*

2. By eating the bread & drinking the cup we are proclaiming, or giving your oath of faithfulness. Therefore, it is our confession of loyalty to Him.

B. Slide9 Baptism demonstrates our initial identification with Christ and His church.

The Lord’s supper celebrates our continual identification with Christ and His church.

C. This was to be the most important meal eaten in the history of the world.

D. This is a family meal but it is not secretive. It is to be done in public.

1. It is not a secretive, cultic ritual w/magical powers.

2. It is a public act of worship by the gathered church.

3. It is not about privacy but proclamation. So if you’re not a believer but seeking spiritual things this morning, we’re glad you’re hear, because we want to proclaim why we do this meal. [meal? - its just a lil piece of a cracker & the smallest of cups w/cheap grape juice? By meal we mean, not like a physical 7 course meal, but a simple spiritual meal]

E. Here Jesus takes a major Jewish celebration, called the Passover, one that the Jews had observed each year for over 1500 years since the time of Moses, and converted it and elevated it into what we know now as communion.
1. Slide10 (Spurg) *The Jewish Passover* was made to melt into the Lord’s Supper as the stars of the morning dissolve into the light of the sun.

2. *The Lord's Supper* is the fuller view, the completed view, of redemption.

III. Slide11 **INSTRUCTIONS** (17-19)

A. Jesus was an obedient Jew, who kept the Law & celebrated Passover.

   1. Being aware of Judas’ plan to betray Him, Jesus kept the place of the meal secret. Peter/John didn’t even know where it was to be held, until they arrived.
      a) Don’t get upset at Jesus when He doesn’t let you in on things. He will, when the time is right.

B. Note Jesus was very organized. This wasn’t happening to him.

   1. Instead of getting a last meal…He gave one.

C. Slide12 (Mk.14:15) Furnished & prepared – i.e. spread w/carpets & cushions.

   1. Furnished w/a low table (U-shaped) by which they would recline.

D. The meal consisted of the roasted lamb (to remind them of the lambs blood that was applied to the doorposts in Egypt to keep the angel of death from killing their 1st born), unleavened bread (to remind them of their haste in leaving Egypt), & the dish of bitter herbs (to remind them of suffering as Pharaoh’s slaves), & 4 cups of diluted wine (to remind them of the 4 promises in Ex.6:6,7).

IV. Slide13 **INDICTMENT** (20-25)

A. (21) What a shattering announcement - one of you will betray Me.

   1. John says, Jesus was troubled in spirit. Jn.13:21

B. Slide14 (22) Is it I? the Gk indicates that a negative answer is expected...Surely, it is not I!

   1. The men that often debated on which one of them was the greatest, now discussed who was the vilest.

   2. They didn’t ask, Is it Judas? Instead Judas chimed in (last it seems) & mouthed the words surely not I, fooling everyone…but Jesus.

      a) Had Jesus pointed out Judas, Peter would have had him in a choke-hold before you could say the word traitor.
C. In Jn.13:26-30, Jesus actually **gave it to him**, as the host would always do this.

1. It was an **honor** to be given a morsel of bread from your host.
2. Jesus, giving the bread was a **gracious act of hospitality**; for Judas, accepting the bread was an **evil act of treachery**.

D. **Slide15 (23)** **Dips w/me in the dish** – In the East, to break bread w/someone means to enter into a pact of friendship & mutual trust.

1. As if to say, *I know what you are going to do. Will you not stop even yet?* Barclay
2. To **break bread, then betray your host**, is the basest of treachery.
3. Even this was the fulfillment of God’s Word, *Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.* Ps.41:9
4. **Judas may have had the honored position at our Lord’s left.**
   a) Judas was close because Jesus was able to hand him the morsel of bread.
   b) We know: John was on Jesus’ right. Everyone would lean on their left hand, thus leaning partially on the person to their left & then they would eat w/their rt hand.
   c) *Thus we have John leaning on Jesus chest. And Jesus leaning on…Judas?*
      (1) Thus Judas had the **opportunity** to have *whispered a repentance* at any time during the meal.
      (2) “Judas, here is my **friendship & forgiveness**…if you take it. *Will you?*”
         (a) Jn.13:27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him.

E. **(24)** **Had not been born** – Some say Judas was just forcing Jesus hand to reveal his power & setting up the kingdom. Others say, he was just obeying what God’s Word had prophesied of him.

1. **Yet**, Judas was no **martyr** nor **robot**. He was neither a **hero** nor the **victim** of some merciless predestination.
2. **He was a responsible** human being who made his own decisions, but in so doing, fulfilled the Word of God. Warren Wiersbe, pg.136.
   a) Judas was lost for the same reason millions are lost today: he did not **repent** of his sins & **believe** on Jesus Christ, the true Passover Lamb.
V. Slide16a **INSTITUTION (26-30)** [Lord’s Supper. Communion. Lord’s Table. Breaking of Bread. Eucharist]

A. Bread & wine were 2 common items that were used at practically every meal, but Jesus gave them *a wonderful new meaning.* **Now** as **memorials** of His death.

1. Every detail of the *Passover* pointed to that great day of Israel’s *deliverance* from Egypt. **Now**, Jesus will redirect the details to *Himself* & to *His deliverance* of *the world* from sin.
   a) *When you do this again, do it in memory of Me and not of the lamb slain in Egypt.*

2. This is the Original **Value Meal**...and what a value He placed on it :)

B. Lets look at these 6 things about communion:

C. Slide17a It’s Historical: Mt, Mark, Lk, John. From the earliest church records the church started observing this. Jesus Himself is the *origin* of the Lord Supper. He commanded that if be continued. And He is the focus and content of it.

D. Slide17b It’s Familial: The Lord’s Supper is an act of *the gathered family* of those who believe in Jesus, the church. Though it’s not an act for unbelievers, they should be present and welcomed. As I said earlier it is not to be secretive. It’s about *proclamation* not *privacy.*

E. Slide17c It’s Physical: it is not the consumption of a 7 course meal. It is very simple. We should *not use* *playful substitutes* (i.e. Oreo cookie & Coca-Cola) we should celebrate it with a sense of *weightiness.*

F. Slide18a Bread: Note, He didn’t take the *Passover Lamb,* but *bread & wine.* Thus He was instituting a *feast,* not a *sacrifice.*

1. 1 Cor.5:7,8 *For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

2. Slide18b Broke it, gave it to them – Bread *broken/Christ for us.* Bread *eaten/Christ in us.* Bread *partaken together/Christ among us.*

G. Slide19 Cup: The Passover requires 4 cups of wine (2 before the meal, 2 after) [Ex.6:6,7]

1. The cup of *Sanctification* (*kiddush*) [separation from all other common meals]

2. The cup of *Deliverance/salvation* (*makkot*) [Del from Egypt. Explaining/Proclaiming]
3. The cup of **Redemption** (*ha-geulah*) [symbolized blood of passover lamb/now Jesus']
   a) **This cup** is the cup of wine lifted at communion, commemorating God’s *redemption* of His people. This was Jesus establishing His New Cov [a sacred binding contract] in His own blood.

4. The cup of **Praise/hope/expectation** (*hallel*) [took place during the *hallel*, hymn]
   a) **This cup** is the cup of wine that Jesus refused to drink from until the coming of His Father’s Kingdom.

5. Going back to the The 3rd cup...**Redemption**...
   a) Old covenant (Sinai) ratified w/the blood of animals sacrifices. New covenant was ratified by His blood.
   b) **Slide20a Rattlesnake Communion:** Old Cov *covered* our sin. New Cov *puts it away*
      (1) Heb.9:26 *now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*
      (2) **Slide20b The Old Law was like** covering a rattlesnake w/a trash can lid. **The New Cov is like** taking his venom out…he can still bite, but it’s no longer deadly.
   c) A *venomoid* is a venomous snake that has undergone a surgical procedure to remove or inhibit the production of snake venom.
      (1) **Slide21 It’s a Venomoid Communion :)**

6. Gave thanks (27) - Thanksgiving is the expression of Joy God-ward.

7. This is **My blood** (28) - Biblical covenants were always ratified by *shed blood*.

H. **Slide22a It’s Mental:** *Do this in remembrance of me...Remember what?*
   1. Normally we celebrate someone’s **Birthday** not their **Death-day**.
      a) Death-days are often difficult days to remember.
   2. **As we do the physical act of eating and drinking,** we are to do the mental active *remembering*.
   3. **How** does the Lord’s Supper help us to *remember* Him?
a) It makes us come to a restful halt in our pilgrimage. It gives us a graphic picture of salvation. It reminds us of the reassuring promise of His Grace. It remains clear prophecy of the future.

4. Remember what? that He truly was a Good Man, a Great Savior, a Loving Friend, a Living Hope, & a Coming Lord.

5. Remember Him in sickness that you might have patience.

6. Remember Him in persecution that you might have gentleness.

7. Remember Him in your service that you remember His burning zeal in His.

8. Remember Him in times of solitude as you remember His midnight prayers.

9. Remember Him so He becomes our pattern that we might be the reproduction of Himself, & thus become the best memorial of Him.


I. Slide22b It’s Spiritual: unbelievers can do everything we’ve named so far. Eat, drink, remember. There must be something more. There is. 1 Cor.10:16-18 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread. 18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? [communion = sharing/ fellowship/participation/koinonia]

1. These believers trust & treasure Jesus Christ. Paul says they’re participating in the body and blood of Christ. They are experiencing a sharing/koinonia in His body & blood. They are experiencing a partnership in His death, by faith.

2. As the Jews (18) shared in or benefited from what happened on the altar. So we, enjoy forgiveness and restored fellowship with God in communion.

3. When we celebrate the Lord supper, we feast spiritually by faith on all the promises of God bought by the blood of Jesus. No unbeliever can do that.

J. Slide22c It’s Sacred: believers are warned not to take communion in a cavalier, callous, or careless way.
1. Not our goal to exclude anyone. *Each person decides for himself.*

2. This is not the Episcopal Table, nor the Baptist Table, nor the Calvary Table, but the Lord’s Table.

3. Slide23a Examine yourself. Q: *Can you be more-bad than God is good?* don’t think so

4. You can only sin as a *man,* but God can forgive as *God.*

5. You sin as a finite creature but the Lord forgives as the *infinite Creator.*

6. Confess your sin to Him - *For I will forgive their iniquity, & their sin I will remember no more.* Jer.31:34

K. Slide23b (29) The supper ends on a note of *Hope*...until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s Kingdom.

1. Jesus was sure of 2 things: He was to die & His kingdom was to come.
   a) He was certain of *His cross* & certain of *His glory.*
   b) He was certain of the *Love of His Father* & certain of *man’s sin.*
   c) He was certain that in the end that *love* would conquer *sin.*

L. Do Communion:

M. In Lk.22:15 Jesus said to his disciples, *With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

1. He desired to eat it with *them.* Even though His body was about to be broken, His blood shed, His heart grieved. *And 1 was about to betray Him,* 1 about to deny Him, & all about to forsake Him.

2. He desires to eat it with *you.* Even though you’ve *betrayed* Him...& will again. Even though you’ve *grieved* Him...& will again. Even though you’ve *broken* his heart...& will again...*He desires to eat with you...oh what a love!*

N. If you ever feel unworthy to come to His table, then just make sure you bring your *sin w/ you* to the table.

1. *Sin* gives us a right to Christ. He is a Savior from sin. *It is as sinners we can sit at the table to begin with. Sin is the handle by which I can take hold of Christ.*

O. *(30) Sung a hymn - Imagine the Lord *singing* when the cross was only a few hours away

1. Jesus *sings praise* to His Father *In the face of rejection & suffering & death.*