

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Basic // What are The Sacraments?
Pastor Marcus
October 23, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite home cooked meal?

Readings: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, 1 Peter 3:18-22

Outline:

- I. What are the Sacraments?
 - a. The Sacraments are the tangible expression of God's grace in Jesus Christ poured out in the present.
 - b. The Sacraments are not different grace. They are the means of grace. They are all about joining us to the work of Jesus.
Q: How does God allow us to feel closer to Him through the sacraments?
- II. Why has God given us the Sacraments?
 - a. The multiplicity of ways that God reveals his grace through Word and Sacraments highlights the abundance of God.
 - b. Holding the sacraments central in our lives is about having lives that reflect the abundance of grace revealed in them.
Q: How can we better hold the sacraments central in our lives? Where are we falling short?
- III. How do the Sacraments shape our life together?
 - a. We can be tempted to treat God's forgiveness with the same scarcity. We treat people who struggle with certain sins as untouchables while coming before God with pretense and hide our worst faults.
 - b. Don't be stingy with grace. It isn't scarce. You serve the God who forgives the seventy-seven. Extend grace without measure. You serve the God of abundance.
Q: How do the sacraments teach us to give more grace to others in a similar way to the grace God gives us?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How does participating in the sacraments allow us to join the work of Jesus?
- 2) Do our lives reflect the abundance of God's grace revealed in the Sacraments?
- 3) Where is a place in your life that you treat God's forgiveness with scarcity? How can you adjust that mindset?

Suggestions for further study:

- Ephesians 2:4-7 **Q: How do the sacraments demonstrate God's grace and love?**
- Matthew 18:21-22 **Q: How can we learn to be more graceful and forgiving to others?**

Closing Prayer:

Father God, we pray to You because you have revealed Yourself as gracious. You gave us grace by sending Your son Jesus. We ask that we would become people that are marked by that same grace, because it is not scarce. It is multiplied every time it is extended. Help us to live in, and extend Your grace. Amen.