

## **Chat with the Children: Eat!!**

- Why the command? We eat instinctively most of the time!
  - when do we not remember to eat?
  - what do we not want to eat?
- *Jesus' command was because there are and will be times when we don't feel like, when we don't want to eat - and remember - him and his death*

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## **Jerusalem and Disciple Background**

- Let's imagine ourselves into the shoes of one of the disciples...
- Ministry of Jesus.
  - there is mounting opposition
  - there is the deliberate journey to Jerusalem - against the advice of many friends
  - there is the lack of understanding about the nature of Jesus' Messiahship - didn't grasp suffering servant teaching he'd been giving them
- And they are **country boys**, Galileans, not used to big city.
  - (cf. me in London, bustle of Underground; or Edinburgh in Festival!)
- There is a nervousness in face of Pharisaic opposition
- No arrangements made; strange city... goes on through the week - has Jesus noticed?
  - *"Where do you want us to go and get the Passover meal ready?"*
  - go, approach a stranger.... **hardly sensible!**
  - **but it still worked out!**
- *So disciples are jittery? Uncertain? Nervous?*

### **How do we come today?**

- Disciples lacked understanding, lacked trust, caught up in something bigger than they realised.
- Maybe we come with our uncertainties:
  - uncertainty about the future, for ourselves or our family;
  - maybe about our faith - we've always come along, but understood?
- That's OK - Jesus knew, he was in control 2000 years ago; he still knows, understands what his followers need today, where they're at.

## **Events of Last Supper**

- Meal... lamb, unleavened bread, wine... someone presiding.
- Got used to Jesus saying odd things, but...
  - (remember, disciples didn't know events to come later in night & next day)
- Bread - "Take it, this is my body!"
- Pardon? Lack of comprehension.
- Same with wine - "This is my blood which is poured out for many..."
- Only later understanding began to dawn.
- Passover meal - remembering events of Passover night in Egypt - protection of the blood of a lamb - lamb helping us remember God's intervention - came to see we were eating with very Son of God - Lamb of God in act of making the final intervention to protect us from wrath!
- Bread & wine - new symbolism, reminder of the very hands that broke it, that poured the wine - hands stretched out next day on the cross, blood shed by Jesus for us.
- Jesus purpose - couldn't have taken in a clear explanation (hadn't managed up to now!)

## **Matthew 26:17-30 Jesus says: Take, eat, drink... Fintry, 2/3/2008, am**

- yet symbolic one struck, lingered in the mind, wasn't forgotten, later became clear - made us remember not just explanation, but tender love with which Jesus acted.
- Jesus was telling us HE was the perfect Passover sacrifice that brought us freedom! Amazing!

### **Relevance for us today**

- The disciples slowly moved from uncertainty to certainty as they saw Jesus dying for them, slowly understood the amazing love and significance of his actions - and also his rising from death, his conquering of the final enemy.
- That same assurance is ours - it is for US as much as the disciples that Jesus gave his body, shed his blood.
  
- That confidence also allows us to look forward to the circumstances of our own lives, whatever they may be, in the knowledge of God's care, and in the certain hope of a future secure with him.

### **Conclusion**

- Jesus surprised the disciples by inviting them the "take it... body... blood".
- We will presumably not be surprised when later in the service we too are invited to share in the bread and the wine - but let us, like those first disciples, accept Jesus' gracious, loving invitation to:

"Come, eat with me..."