

Theme -table

Spot one

What are the connections we make as believers with the word table?

As a piece of furniture, a place together as family and friends, a place to display. Jesus turned the tables over of the money changers. The communion table. The table represents community, family, and steadfast presence.

Communion as an ordinance/sacrament, it is something handed down from Jesus and started by him. There is a reflection in the Old Testament with Passover, How God rescued, delivered the people – so the sacrifice of Jesus rescues and delivers. The idea of the covenant of God with His people as he delivers them from Egypt. The communion table expresses our Covenant with God and with each other.

What are our experiences of the communion table, from the words given by congregation. Mediate upon the phrase brokenness and blessing as a way of viewing communion.

Nothing special happens to the bread and wine – hence we give thanks for the symbols, rather than blessing them. We share this meal as it is commanded by God.

“Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,
¹⁵ and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honour me.”

Spot two

The table as a place of growth and maturity. As individuals and as a congregation we seek to grow in our faith, the rest of the chapter points to this. All growing churches will have dis-agreements but it is important how we deal with them, as people sharing the same sense of calling to this place. Gathering around the table is a sign of our togetherness, the old expression of ‘breaking bread together’ - mediate on what it means to ‘break bread together’.

We think of family meals, fellowship meals, spiritual meals. As believers we are to ground ourselves in our faith; in fellowship, teaching and breaking of bread. The challenge is how to keep doing this.

When do we experience the presence of God? Over the summer some of us have – through conferences, camps etc., hiking visiting particular places. Through the two ordinances that we practice, communion and Baptism.