

**Mark 14:22-25 (NIV)**

22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

23 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them.

25 “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

41-14-01-Eucharistic Kingdom Faith

suffering, sacrifice, thanksgiving, blessing, Eucharist

Mark 14:22-25

Kingdom faith faces earthly suffering with thanksgiving.

**INTRODUCTION:** (Text as Scripture Reading)

–[**my quote:** “*The latitude of your gratitude shows the altitude of your attitude.*”]

Kingdom faith reaches the highest *altitude* in *gratitude*. Our faith is to be *thankful in suffering*– **1 Thes 5:18**, give thanks **in** all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. But the *latitude* is stretched farther when our *thanksgiving* covers **the suffering** itself– **Eph 5:20**, always **giving thanks** to God the Father **for everything**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. –**We don’t** thank God for the sins *causing* suffering. *Sins* are from *lies*. In a Satan-deceived world, *truth confronts* lies at the cost of *suffering*. When we thank God Jesus came to destroy the devil’s lying works, our *gratitude* is for His choice to suffer. **HOM.idea.** His thanksgiving for what signified His coming Cross gave us an example to follow. As He initiated the Eucharist [lit., thanksgiving], He taught us how to offer...

**I. Thanksgiving for a Body That Can Suffer for Truth– v.22**, *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”*

- A. Jesus “gave thanks” for a *Passover Meal*, blessing it as a sign of His own suffering as the sacrificed Lamb. [lit., “gave thanks” = “**blessed**”].
- B. Jesus **blessed** those who caused His suffering, and told us to do the same– **Luke 6:27b-28**, “But I tell you who hear me:\* Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **bless** those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (\*If we “**hear [obey]**” it expands our gratitude latitude!)
- C. In a fallen world with sin-cursed bodies, we *have pain!* [When things aren’t right pain receptors scream at us, “*Something’s wrong!*” But thank God for *pain!* It tells the truth about our *injuries* and *illnesses*, so we can seek *help*.]
  1. The “devil’s work” of *lies* leads to *sin*, and sin produces suffering.
  2. *Without suffering*, we’d be happy with lies and not mind our sin.
  3. *Sin’s pain* says, “*Something’s wrong! I need God to fix this!*”

**TRANS:** The spiritual help we need comes from Him Who *suffered* “to destroy the devil’s work.” We’re thankful for His sacrifice, as He was at the 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist. But can we thank God for *dysfunctional pain* that shouts,

“Something’s wrong!” when it can’t be fixed this side of Heaven? *I believe we can. Our pain reminds us, “We’ve not arrived yet! This isn’t home!”* Jesus reminds us too: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” That’s why **Kingdom faith faces earthly suffering with thanksgiving**. *Christ’s example taught us how to offer*

**II. Thanksgiving for a Life We Can Sacrifice— v.23-24**, *Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them.*

- A. *OT blood sacrifice was based on a principle—Lev 17:11*, For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life. [We say, “*They bought our freedom with their blood.*” = they gave up their lives.]
- B. Jesus “gave thanks” for His lifeblood being “poured out” to make a new “covenant.” (God *outside* [OT] became God *inside* [NT], when Jesus sacrificed His lifeblood, so that *His life* might flow *in us*.)
- C. Christ, living *inside* us, still says, “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends,” and He adds, “Take up your cross and follow Me.” (Jesus isn’t done laying down His life for His potential friends among the lost. But *now* He wants His life “poured out” for them *through us*, who have His lifeblood flowing in us.)

**TRANS:** Ponder that, next time you drink the *Eucharistic cup*. It’s a *thanksgiving cup*, for partaking of His suffering. (We might be thanking God that Heb 12:4 is still true for us, “In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.” [IOW, *we’re not dead yet!*]) But Jesus wants us to have Kingdom faith, a faith that can “give thanks” as we ourselves pour out our lives for others... even if we suffer for doing so. Our secret for success in this is to maintain the focus Jesus had, a...

**III. Thanksgiving for a Future His Suffering Purchased— v.25**, *“I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”*

- A. When we “give thanks” for sufferings—whether they come from a “struggle against sin” or from our lives being “poured out” for others, it points us to a proper focus— Heb 12:2. Let us **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for **the joy set before him** endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- B. Focusing *on Jesus and our future with Him* “in the kingdom of God”

puts our earthly *physical, emotional and relational sufferings* in a proper *eternal perspective— 2 Cor 4:17-18*. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

### **CONCLUSION:**

– **Kingdom faith faces earthly suffering with thanksgiving**. We “give thanks” that, despite our *sufferings* in this life, “we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” We “give thanks” for opportunities to suffer with Jesus in destroying “the devil’s work” by pouring out our life in service to others, which is really pouring out His lifeblood in us. Finally, we “give thanks” for a *future focus* on the fulfilled “kingdom of God.” That was *the example of Christ and the exhortation of his apostles...* and I could close with no better exhortation than the Apostle Peter’s in 1Peter 4:12-13. Dear friends, **do not be surprised** at the **painful trial** you are **suffering**, as though something strange were happening to you. But **rejoice** that you **participate in the sufferings of Christ**, so that you may be **overjoyed** when his glory is revealed.