

Last Sunday I had said that I was talking with Preacher Sam over at the Church of Christ, and I was trying to relay to him about how important these days are to us, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the others that we celebrate together. And that it is not just about being a part of the whole faith, but being able to celebrate together, being able to share in what Jesus went through at this time.

When I was little, I was here one Sunday, and I was watching everybody. I always watch people. That is kind of my thing. And I noticed that some people sat for a while and picked a very specific piece of bread out. And others just quickly picked one and went, and they did the same with the juice. And I always wondered why that was, why people did that. And we were sitting back in the pews and I looked over and my grandpa is taking his time. He picks his piece out and he hands it over and then I hand it to my grandma. And my uncle Denny was with us. And my uncle Denny and my grandma just picked a piece up and passed. And then the juice came though and the same thing. Grandpa sat there for what felt like an hour picking out which one he wanted. And my grandma and my uncle pick them quick and just pass.

I looked at my grandpa and I asked him why do you take so much more time than grandma and denny. He said to me that I think I am a little hungrier than they are. Well, I am a little kid and I am thinking okay he must have been in the field this morning and I didn't really think anything about it.

Then later during my confirmation, we had a Maundy Thursday service. I was sitting up here at the table. You know there were a number of us back when we used to do it like that. I got done and my grandpa came up to me. He said, do you remember a long time ago you asked me why I took so long to get communion. By that point it has probably been 5 or 6 years, so I am like well a little bit. He's like, "Do you remember what I told you?" I said yes you said you were hungrier than the rest. He said well do you understand what I meant now. And I had no idea what he was talking about, I really didn't. And I was like no, because you can not lie to Grandpa, he knows. And he is like well one day you will understand because you are like me and it is going to take you a little longer too. And I didn't understand it until much later.

Today's scripture reading kind of talks like that. MARK is talking about the last supper and everything that Jesus is going through on that night. He is going to the end and he knows, He knows that it is coming. And when you read it in Matthew and Luke, it's a party. Its a festival and everyone is there and he stops everything going on. But in Mark, he is more reflective. He is saying this is me. This is my blood. This is the covenant that we all share with God. THIS is going to happen. And he is like everybody else. He doesn't want it to. He goes to the mountain and he prays because he is afraid. He knows the time is coming. He knows he has done all of these things. He has lived out the prophecies. He has done all this great work. But he is still afraid and it is taking him a little bit longer too.

He knows God's love is there. He knows that his love for everyone is here. He has given us all the tools that we need to celebrate his life. He knows that he is going to continue on but he is still scared. He is still thinking that at this time, what if what if we wait. What if we change things, What if it doesn't have to happen this way. We do not always understand what God's plan is. We don't always know what God's plan is. But we know that no matter what he loves us and he does have a plan for us. And some of us it takes us a little bit longer to sit there and figure it out. It takes us longer because we need God's love a little bit more than some others do. We think about how much he has done for us. We think about how much better we are for having him in our lives. We think about what more we can do to show his love to others and it is not a quick repetitive thing. It is something that means a lot to us. It is something dear to us, in our hearts.

We know that Jesus gave his life for us. We know he walked among us, he was us. He did more than any of us can ever imagine. We know that each time we take the bread, we are sharing his body. We are sharing his covenant with God throughout this time. And it is a great thing that we share, not only in these walls, we share it around the entire world. We get to share it with our friends, our family, with St John's on Sunday. We get to share with people we don't even know. It's an opportunity we all have because we get to take that little extra time to think about it.