

## Sermon for Holy Thursday—Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Westfield, IN—4/12/2001

Title: "This One's for You"

Text: Luke 22: 19-20

Introduction: *Illus.: Holman Hunt painting: "Light of the World" ("Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me." Rev. 3: 20)*

Theme: A personal gift from Jesus in this meal of the Lord's Supper leads us to make a personal response of commitment in return as we live out the memory of the One and for the One who gave his all to us.

### His personal gift

- "For you"
  1. **ILLUS.: RSVP—(directed at you specifically)**
  2. Personally engraved invitation—not meant for your parents or for the whole group but just for you
  3. It offers a gift of grace and forgiveness *to you*
- "Being given"
  1. an ongoing giving—not just done once but given every time
  2. That is why Jesus wants us to "*do it in remembrance*"—not a static memory but a live re-enactment of the supper
- "A New Covenant"
  1. **ILLUS.: IS IT A MATTER OF WORDS OR INTENT? (wording of a contract)**
  2. Jesus' last word and "*testament*" on the subject
  3. Not a rehash of the Old with all its rules and ritual and regulations—mindless worship and relationship
  4. The freedom of spontaneous response—it is both free and scary—no rules for how to act—being in relationship

### Our personal response

- **Believing in the supernatural**
  1. Bread and wine/body and blood—it can't logically, humanly be so—it has to be of God and from God to be true
  2. Miraculously taking part in the death and resurrection moment of Christ and of myself—a compelling commitment to live holy because I am holy in Christ (*blood shed on your behalf*)
- **Being part of His people**
  1. A covenant between two parties
    - "*I shall be your God and you shall be my people*" Lev. 26: 12
  2. A commitment to be part of Christ's body
    - "*Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.*" 1 Cor. 10: 17
  3. A conviction that lives for a different purpose
    - **ILLUS.: Scene from "Semper Fi"—"you are a Marine; you live differently because you are a Marine; you live for the Marines; you'll give your life. . ."**
    - "*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*" 1 Peter 2: 9

### Christ Knocking at the Door

Holman Hunt's great picture, called "The Light of the World," we see one with patient, gentle face standing in front of an ivy-covered door—apparently not opened for a long time. He bears in his hand the lamp of truth. He stands and knocks. There is no answer, and he still stands and knocks. His eye tells of love, his face beams with yearning. You look closely, and you perceive that there is no knob or latch on the outside of the door. It can be opened only from within. This picture is based on a familiar verse from the book of Revelation: "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.*" Rev. 3: 20

### Is Intent a Contract?

The Canadian government was accused of concealing a uranium contract in 1961. Prime Minister Diefenbaker declared no contract existed. The Eldorado Mining and Refining Company, Limited insisted that the company had a firm contract—that "an exchange of letter of intent is a firm contract." This political row became a battle of words and their meaning. It was all about \$192,000,000 worth of uranium that Canada hoped to sell to Britain in the 1963-66 period, and the nice differences between a letter of intent, a commitment, a contract, and a formal contract.

### Luke 22:19-20

And when He had taken *some* bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "*This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.*"<sup>20</sup> And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "*This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.*" [NASB]