

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. 1 Cor 10:16-17, 21. As the cup of the Lord refers to what was in the cup, i.e. the fruit of the vine, so the table of the Lord refers to what was on the table, i.e. the unleavened bread.
2. Now imagine the literal table which Jesus and the twelve apostles sat around as He instituted the Lord's supper. What comes to your mind when you see it?

**DISCUSSION:**

1. **Jesus began his ministry when He was about 30 years of age.** Luk 3:23.
2. **Jesus had been a carpenter.** Mark 6:1-3A.
3. **Jesus was the son of a carpenter.** Mat 13:55A.
4. **Jesus likely took over His father's carpentry business at a relatively early age.** "As early as the marriage feast at Cana of Galilee there is no word of Joseph being there (John 2.1-11). By far the most likely explanation is that Joseph was dead, and that the young Jesus had to take upon his shoulders the family business and the support of his mother Mary and of his younger brothers and sisters (Mark 6:3), and that he had to stay in Nazareth until there was some one in the family old enough to take over the carpenter's shop and to earn a living for the family" (Barclay).
5. **Having been a carpenter, Jesus was intimately familiar with wood, hammers, and nails and how to use them to make tables and how they were used to make crosses.**

A. Crucifixion was a common means of Roman execution, one that Jesus would have often seen with a carpenter's eye.

B. Jesus knew that ...

- 1) The cross arm was put on the ground and the one to be crucified was thrown backward into the dirt with His shoulders against the wood.
- 2) The crucifier felt for the depression at the front to the victim's wrist and drove a heavy, square wrought iron nail through it deep into the wood.
- 3) The crucifier moved quickly to the other side of the cross arm and repeated the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, allowing some room for movement.
- 4) The soldiers lifted the cross arm into place on top of the permanent upright post.
- 5) The victim's left foot was placed on top of his right foot and with both feet extended, toes pointing downward, the crucifier drove a single nail through the arch of each foot careful to leave room for the the knees to moderately flex.
- 6) The major effect of crucifixion, beyond its excruciating pain, was the way it seriously interfered with normal breathing, particularly exhaling. The weight of the victim's body pulled down on his outstretched arms and shoulders fixing his muscles in such a way that it was impossible for him to properly exhale. To exhale, the victim had to lift His body up by pushing on His feet. This placed the full weight of his body on the nail through his feet producing searing pain. As soon as He exhaled, the victim collapsed placing the full support of his weight back on the nails in His wrists producing even more searing pain.

6. **Jesus was killed with the tools of his previous trade.** Act 2:22-23; Joh 20:24-28.

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. **Jesus still chose the nails.**

A. From before time, Jesus knew He was going to leave heaven and come to earth to die because He was the only fitting sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Php 2:5-8.

B. Every day of the first thirty or so years of Jesus' earthly life was filled with vivid reminders of how He was going to die.

C. Imagine what Jesus must have thought every time He took a nail and hammered it into a piece of wood.

D. He did not have to choose the nails. John 10:15B, 18A. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus could have called more than twelve legions of angels and never been crucified. At any time after He was crucified he could have come down from the cross. But, He still chose the nails – for you and for me.

1) That is love.

2) There is only one reasonable response.

2. **The importance of reminders.** While we can and always should learn new things from the word of God, what we need most are constant reminders of what we have already learned. Jesus had them. We need them.

A. Rom 15:15A; 2 Pet 1:12-13; Jde 5A.

B. Deu 6:4-9.

C. Heb 10:24-25.

D. Heb 3:12-13.

3. **Jesus knows.** Heb 4:15-16. It is a double edged sword.

4. **The literal table of the Lord.**

A. We partake of the Lord's Supper to remember and proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

B. We consider many things to prepare our minds so the Lord's Supper will fulfill its intended purpose.

C. Given this sermon, we might add the literal table on which the original emblems sat to our list of things to consider.

1) We might think of how the Lord Himself made tables - laying down boards, placing nails, and driving them in with a hammer.

2) We might think of how He made tables knowing full well that one day He would voluntarily place His hands and feet on boards, allow nails to be placed on them, and endure inconceivable pain as He permitted them to be driven into place by a hammer.

3) We might see in the literal table that held the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine Jesus used to institute the Lord's Supper, with its wood and its nails, the cross on which our Lord's body hung and from which His blood poured.

**CONCLUSION:** "Is not this the carpenter?" Given what He was saying and doing, what was surprising was not that the carpenter was the Messiah, but that the Messiah, having been a carpenter, still chose the nails!