

*Do You Remember?  
Numbers 15:37-41, Luke 22:19*

It was bedtime and as the mom tucked her little boy into bed, he told her, "By the way, Mom, you are supposed to bake three dozen brownies for a class party tomorrow." "Why didn't you tell me earlier?" "I guess I forgot to remember."

And last Saturday. Duke after three years, finally won a Conference football game. And we said, Let's celebrate. But we couldn't remember how, it had been so long.. . Were we to have a steak? A pizza? A special dessert? It had been so long that we could no longer remember.

We humans sometimes forget. And that's why we have rituals.

It's why we have birthday cakes and Christmas trees. To help us remember the good stuff, God's blessing, and watchcare on our journey.

God does not want his people to forget to remember. And so we worship, why we have symbols and rituals, that's why we sing hymns and study Scripture.

And that's why Moses commanded his people to put blue tassels around the fringes of their garments, to serve as a reminder of what? That they were a people holy to God. To remember that they were called to a life of obedience and morality.

They will be tempted to go astray, to follow the lesser leanings of their hearts, but they might look at the tassels and then remember again: they are God's people. And remember something else: the love and the power of God, God who had led them from slavery in Egypt to a Promised Land filled with promise and possibility.

To look at the tassels was to remember they were God's people, to remember what God had done for them, to remember on those days when temptations were great or when life seemed without hope. They would remember. They belong to God. God, who is merciful and who has done mighty things for them.

And it is in this same spirit that Jesus invites us to receive Communion this morning. He does not want us to forget to remember. It is not a tassel on a garment, but a simple morsel of bread and a single sip of wine that invites us to recall that we belong to God.

When you eat bread, Jesus asks, remember me. Remember what I taught. Remember my mercy and my miracles. Remember how I called you from a life of sin to be my people. Remember how I forgave people of scandalous sins and welcomed them to follow me, assured them that they too are beloved by God.

Remember how a paralyzed man walked and a blind man saw and a little girl was raised from death to life. Remember how I calmed the storm when you were afraid. And when you are so burdened by life or by your sin, remember that I will die for the sake of your sins and will rise

again to new life, that where I will be, you also will be.

There are many different meanings of Communion. But today, I hope that this most simple meaning will resonate in your heart.

As you eat that little morsel of bread, do you remember? The love Christ has for you. The sacrifice he sacrificed for you. The new life he has promised you. His presence with you through the Holy Spirit wherever your journey might take you today.

Do you remember?