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THE
HEALING
POWER
OF THE
HOLY
COMMUNION

A 90-DAY DEVOTIONAL



EMANATE
BOOKS

DAY 10

STRIPED, PIERCED, AND BURNT

The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

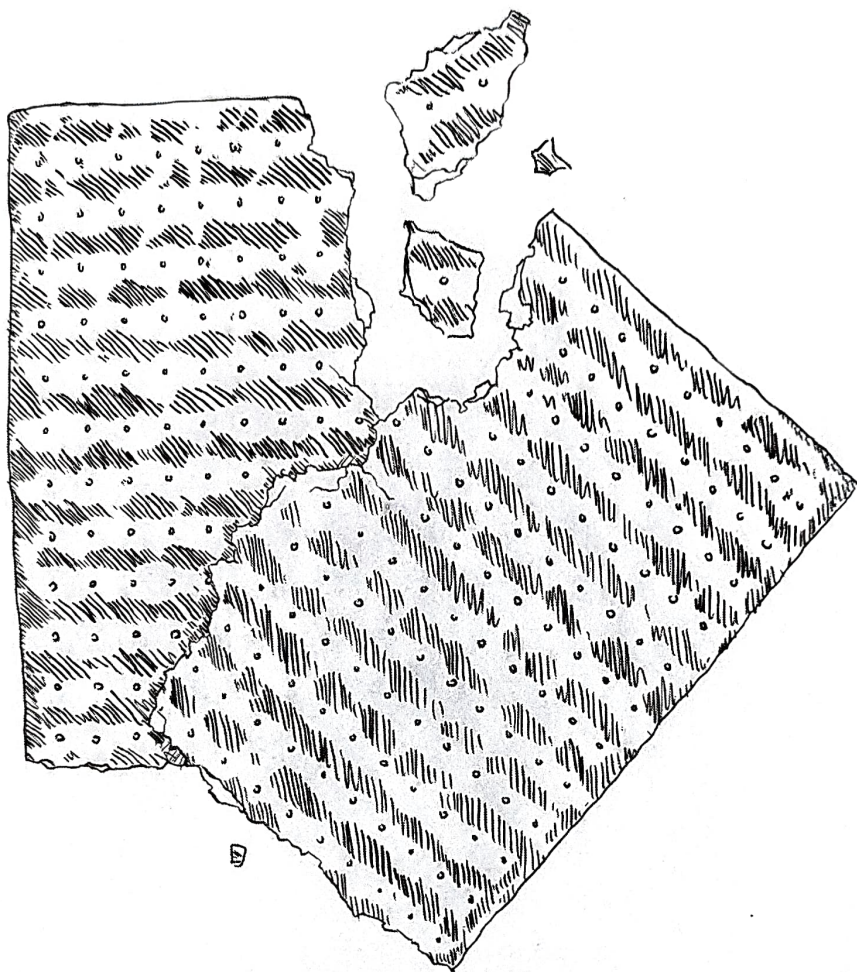
—1 Corinthians 11:23–24

Why did our Lord Jesus choose the bread and wine as the elements He wanted us to partake of "in remembrance" of Him? I believe it is because they are practical and visual reminders of what happened to Him as He went to the cross. Let's first consider the bread.

The bread our Lord Jesus broke on the night of the Passover was unleavened Jewish matzah bread, which is a flat, cracker-like bread specially prepared for the Passover. I want to highlight this because today most of us think of soft, fluffy loaves when we mention bread. But this is not the kind of bread Jesus was talking about.

When our church was smaller, we purchased matzah bread and broke it into pieces for our congregation when we partook of the holy Communion together each week. As we ate the bread, we could hear crunching sounds from the people around us, and I believe we were hearing the scripture in John 6:56 being fulfilled—hearing what it sounds like to *trogo* or "to crunch"!

Jewish leaders who didn't even believe in Jesus have passed down through the centuries the instructions for making the matzah bread. If you look at the picture of the matzah bread on the next page, you will notice it is striped, pierced, and burnt.



The matzah bread is a practical, visual reminder of what Jesus suffered for our healing.

Do you know why the matzah bread is made this way? I believe the Lord ordained it to be striped, pierced, and burnt so that each time you partake of the holy Communion, you are reminded afresh what Jesus went through for you:

- *Striped*—because it is by the stripes He bore when the soldiers scourged Him that we are healed (Isa. 53:5).
- *Pierced*—because His hands and feet were pierced by the nails, His side was pierced by the soldier's spear (John 19:34), and His brow was pierced by the crown of thorns (John 19:2).
- *Burnt*—because the fire of God's judgment fell upon Him when He carried our sins (Isa. 53:4).

Receiving the Communion is really about releasing your faith to see His body broken and striped for your healing and wholeness as you partake of the bread. It's about receiving His love, knowing He suffered for you so that you could receive the healing He wants you to have.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Because Jesus' body was striped, pierced, and burnt on the cross, we can have full assurance sickness and disease have *no right* to be in our bodies. Our Lord Jesus has already borne every sickness on His body and reversed every curse by His death. Today we can receive all that Jesus did on the cross by partaking of the holy Communion—through the simple act of eating.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father in heaven, thank You for this powerful, visual reminder that our Lord Jesus was striped, pierced, and burnt for our healing. Thank You that I can receive all that Jesus did for me on the cross through the simple act of eating as I receive the holy Communion in faith. I declare that sickness and disease have no right to be in my body. In Jesus' name, amen.