

**Powerful Gift**

1. **Powerful Reality**
2. **Powerful Warning**
3. **Powerful Proclamation**

*Powerful Gift*

- **TEXT.** Imagin mmnt: sitting at bedside of loved one who's dying (and know they're dying). So in last mmnts/life, they give you gift. "I want you have this" they say; and then give you – cld be anything: old photo, diary, simple trinket, or precious fam heirloom. It was theirs; now they want it be yours. Thght of you; now this gift'll make you think/them. That's very pwrfl; you trsr that gift! Ever happnd you before? Happnd me few mos ago. Before uncle died in Jan, gave me few of his muscl instrmnts. Thght of me; now when play, I think of him. Very pwrfl; I trsr that gift! Pwrfl gift.
- Tonight celbrt HT (or MT, either fine). J: not dying, but about die (knew). So in last mmnts/life, w/his discs gthrd arnd him, J gave them gift. "I want you have this" said – not instrmnt, trinket, heirloom, but pwrfl gift – a gift J gave not only to first discs but all discs, incldng you/me – a gift we trsr, bec J thght of us, and this gift makes us think/him & remem him – a pwrfl gift fr our dying frnd we call: HC.
- **Vs. 23b** (night: befr died; of Last Sup; befr sentncd dth, tortrd, crcfd – that night); **vs. 24ab**, said "**for you**" – gift lang; he's giving a gift, in love, "for you" – says: "I want you have this." **Vs. 25ab**, said "**do this**" – "have/use/repeat/trsr/honr/priortz/do this, which I'm giving as gift to you to do." HC: pwrfl gift!
- J gives gift to whole Ch: to us; also Pl. "**For I recvd fr Lord.**" In Gal 1 Pl tells: J spoke to him directly; not like Pl sat in BIC undr Pt or Mt; no, J reveald truth/Gos to Pl directly, incldng doctrn/HC. So Pl can say: **vs. 23a**. Paul passed on doctrn/HC to Cornthns. He tght them; they learnd fr him. He: their Pr, Tchr, Cat instrctr. That's how it works; Gos: passd on fr gen/gen, prnt/chld, tchr/stdnt. Think mmnt re who tght you Gos? Which Pr, tchr, prnt, Xian tght Gos to you? Perhaps many diff Xians tght you Gos at diff times/life. They passd on to you what was passd on to them. Pl: **vs. 23a** – truth re HC, J's pwrfl gift to us.

*1. Powerful Reality*

- What makes this gift so pwrfl is the pwrfl reality that accmpns this gift. "**J took brd...bld.**" His wrds: very clear; brd: bdy. Little later, "**this cup...bld.**" Again, these wrds: very clear; wine, bld. This: what J saying! If anybdy else in wrld spk like this, we'd call crazy; say: "What!?! That brd/wine on table: not your bdy/bld; you're sitting right next me; this's yr bdy/bld, not what we're about to eat!" But J: no ordnry prsn! Think what J does: walks wtr, calms strm, raises dead, multpls little lunch into feast for Ks – this what J does; can do anythng! And think what J says: "I: res/life" (no one else can say that!); "I & Fr are one; before Abrhm was, I am." But J is God, so he does things only God can do & says/say. Only God can: brk brd & say "bdy"; share wine & say "bld". And J means what says; wrds very clear. This is the pwrfl reality – that in HC J is really/truly presnt. We call: dctrn real presnc. J's presnc in Com is real, not symblc, figuratv, metaphrcl. He's really present. Pwrfl reality!
- Wrds/Inst recorded in Mt, Mk, & Lk; and in each 3 Goss, J's wrds: perfly clear. "This is bdy/bld." Here in 1 Cor Pl repeats Wrds/Inst, and then further reiterats truth real presnc when: **vs. 27** (unwrthy: more in mmnt) – not vs some table wine or apptzr brd, but vs bdy/bld Lord – which means: in HC you recvng bdy/bld Lord. Then at **vs. 29** (more on jdgmnt in mmnt) – but in Com you must discern/recgnz/acknwldg that "bdy/Xp" is truly present. So vs/vs/vs, Paul here is reforcng same thing J said in upper rm: that in HC we recv J's true bdy/bld (as we Luths like say) in/w/undr brd/wine. That's: real presnc; pwrfl reality.
- Doesn't mean can fully undrstnd that reality. It's a real presnc; also special/sacrmntl/miracls pres. We Luths bel that a mrcl takes place in Com; J joins self to brd/wine in miracls way. And honstly, who/us can explain a mrcl; who can fully undrstnd mrcl? But the mrcl is still real, bec J's wrds are real; & clear; and so are Pl's. Real presnc of Xp in sacrmnt is a pwrfl reality!

## 2. Powerful Warning

- Hand/hand w/this pwrfl reality: pwrfl warning. Yes, Ap Pl warns us: HC is so powrfl that it can actly be dangrs. So requires pwrfl warning. **Vs. 27.** Cornthns were messing up Com bigtime! They'd celbrt Com during potluck meal; so reg meal & sacred meal: all mixed up tog. If we have potlck: gym; but HC in ch; don't mix 2 tog. Cornthns mixing 2 tog. And lot other probs: ppl getting drunk; being irrvrnt, disrspctfl; and: failing to recgnz real presnc/Xp in sacrmnt! **Vs. 29** (w/o acknwdgng/belvng that J's true bdy/bld: presnt w/brd/wine). All/this: unwrthy recptn; it's taking Com in **"unwrthy manner."** And Pl says when do that: sinning & bringing jdgmnt on self! That's pwrfl warning! Can't take Com lightly; this: serious!
- Think medcn. One most pwrfl medctns prson can take for pain mangmntnt: fentanyl – 100x more pwrfl than morphn. And some patients need it. But physcns have be extrdnrly careful when adminstrng fentnyl bec even tiny amnt can be fatal if admnstrd imprply. Same thing w/chemthrpy: pwrfl & dangrs if recvd imprply. Same true w/HC! If prsn recvs Com imprply, **"in unwrthy mann,"** results can be sprtly fatal!
- Why you think we prac Close Com? And why think Ch's done so since time/Apstls? We don't want ppl get hurt; drink jdgmnt on selves! It's same reason pharmcs don't just hand out medctn to anyone w/o Rx & w/o instrctn. We must 1<sup>st</sup> undrstnd our condtn; then must undrstnd what HC truly is, so can bel truth by faith. And so Ch must pass on the Com truth that J passd on to Pl & passes on to us in Scrptr. Some chs prac open Com, despite these clear warnings; floors me! Some chs deny real presnc/Xp in sacrmnt, despite clear wrds/J & Pl; floors me! It's like looking J/face, saying, "I think made mistake; let me correct you." Luths take real presence, & Pl's warnings, very seriously...
- Bec we bel J's wrds! And at end/day, only way to recv Com in worthy manner: bel J's wrds! **Vs. 28.** To examine self means ask self some honest qstns re what you bel, like: Sorry for sins? Bel J: Sav? Bel real presnc? Strive live God-pleasng life? Favor: hymnal p. 295; Xian Qstns. Reading thru these qstns: excllnt way examine self. Now, p. 293; Luth Cat on HC; leave open, set to side; turn to that page after sermon.

## 3. Powerful Proclamation

- Final point I want leave you with re this pwrfl gift of Com: when we take Com, we're making pwrfl proclmtn. **Vs. 26.** Taking Com: statmnt/faith. You're proclaiming, "I bel: in Xp; died/rose for me; gives me his very bdy/bld in sacrmnt; what my ch tchs re J & Gos & Com; w/my fellow bro/sis/Xp that tog we need J's forgvns, and that in HC he gives us his forgvns. This: what I bel." We proclaim all that when take Com; it's confssn/faith. **Vs. 26.** We're also proclmng our faith in his prom to come again, to return at end/wrld to bring us home/hvsn. When we take Com, when we do this in remembrnc/J, we are looking back on his dth/res & forward to his return (back/forward). And someday J will return.
- But for now, treasure the gift! It's powerful!

### 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup>So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

<sup>28</sup>Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. <sup>29</sup>For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.



Artwork drawn by Emmie Galgan