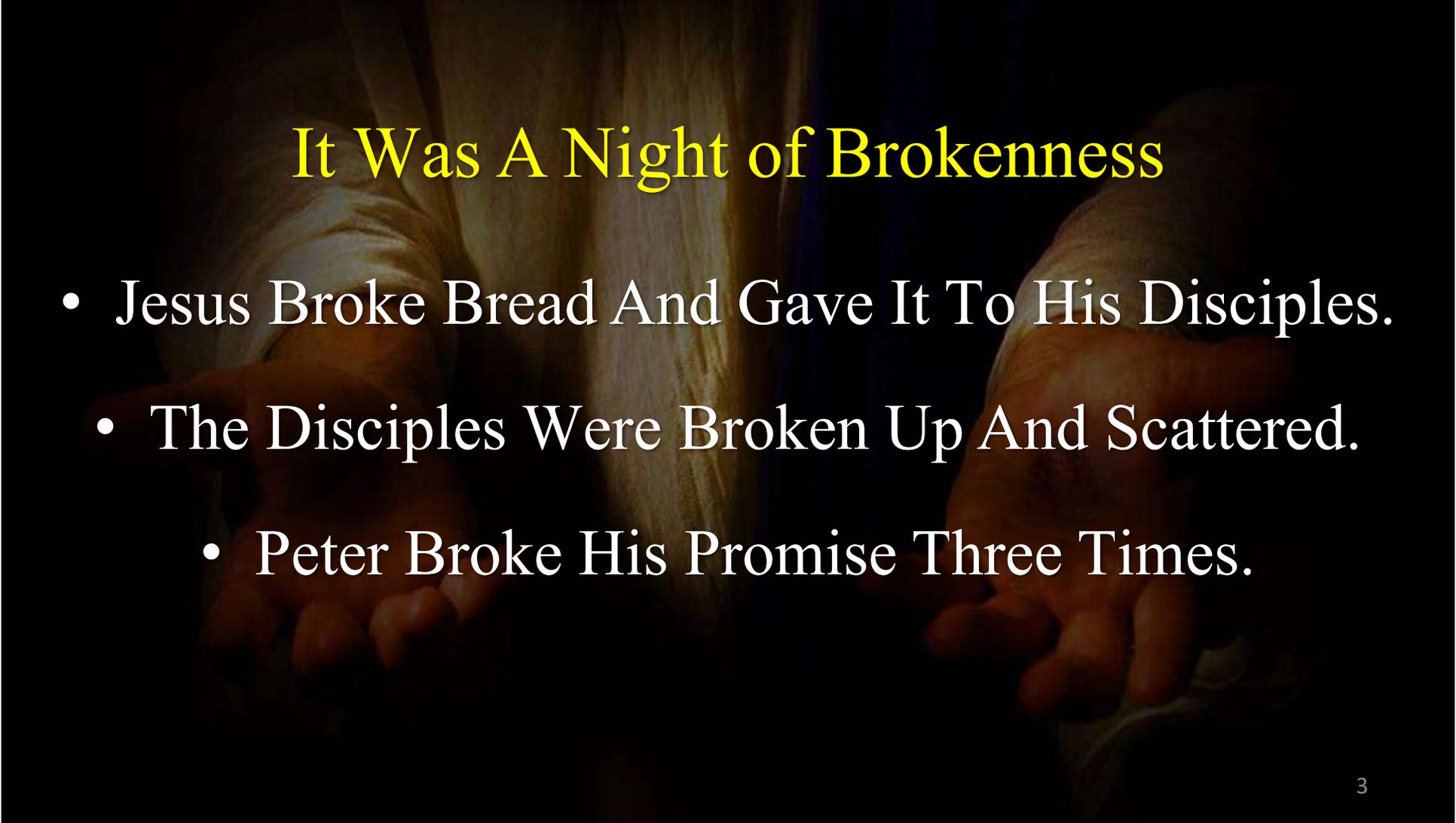


*By His Wounds We Are
One Family!*

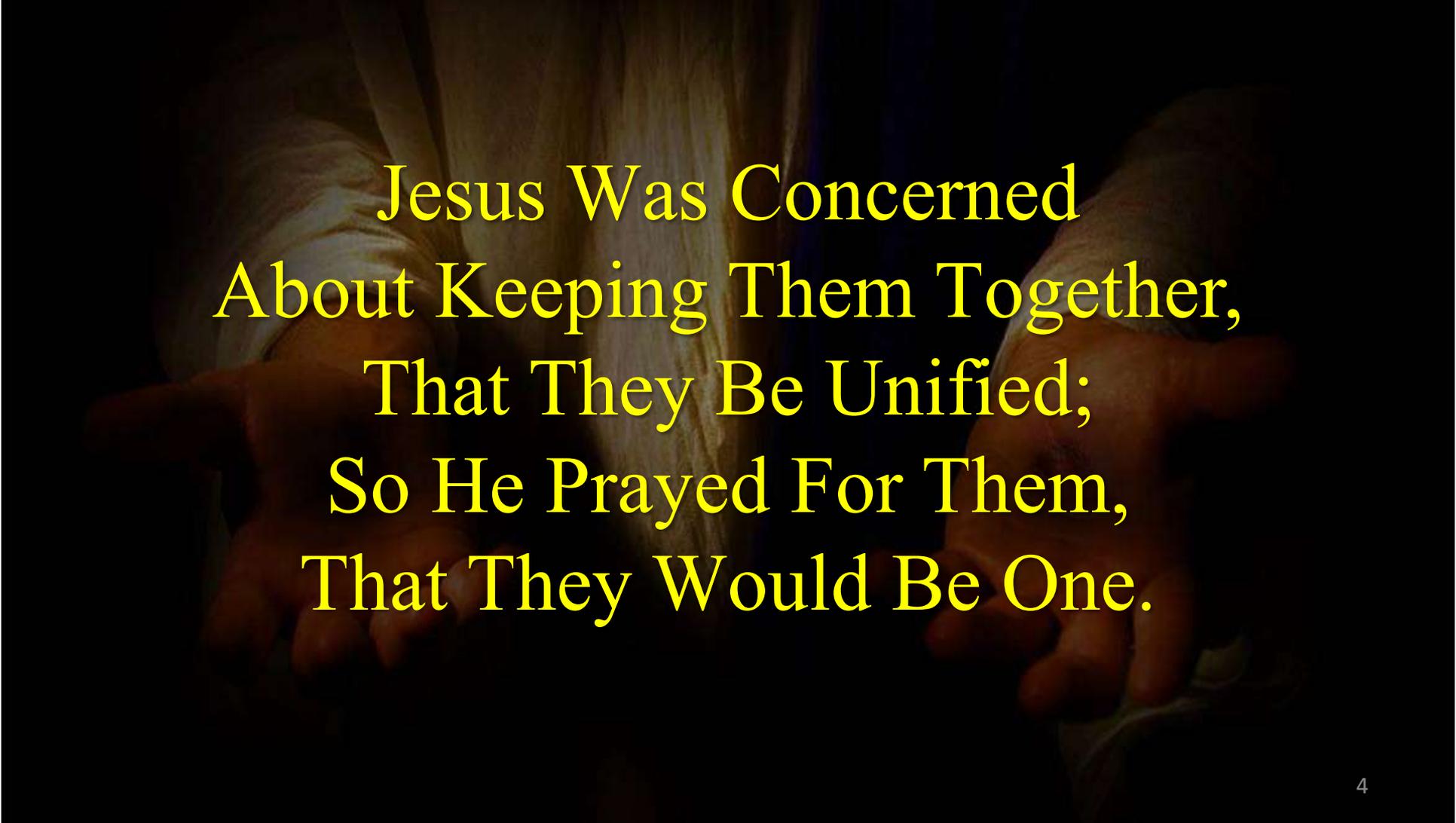
Thursday Before Passover

- Talked with the crowds
- Washed the disciples' feet
- Told his disciples to follow his example
 - Instituted the Lord's supper
- Prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - Was betrayed by Judas Iscariot
 - Was arrested in the garden
- Was questioned by Annas the previous high priest
- Was questioned by Caiaphas the present high priest
 - Stayed the night at Caiaphas home
 - Was denied by Peter three times



It Was A Night of Brokenness

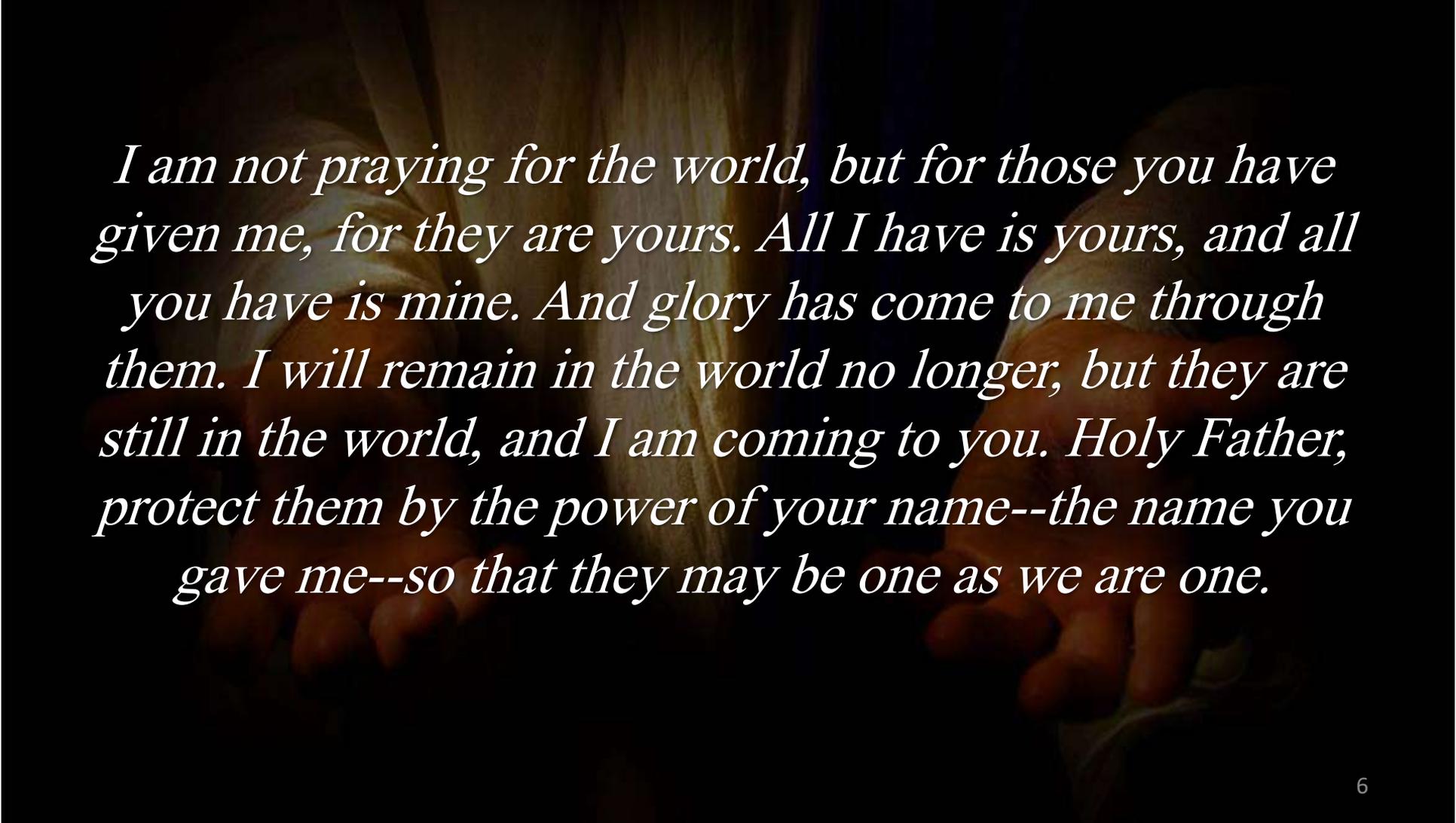
- Jesus Broke Bread And Gave It To His Disciples.
- The Disciples Were Broken Up And Scattered.
 - Peter Broke His Promise Three Times.

A close-up photograph of several hands clasped together in prayer, with a person's face partially visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow, serif font.

Jesus Was Concerned
About Keeping Them Together,
That They Be Unified;
So He Prayed For Them,
That They Would Be One.

John 17:6-11 (NIV)

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them.



I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.

Jesus Made Provisions To Keep Them Together.

- He gave them an example of humble service, when he washed their feet. Humility keeps people together.
- He prayed for them to be one, as they listened, John 17.
 - He gave them His Spirit to unite them.

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--
whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all
given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:13*

- **He Gave Them A Meal!**

We Learn A Lot About Ourselves At This Meal. We Become What We Do!

1 Corinthians 10:16-22 (NIV)

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?

Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

The Lord's Supper Is About Unity

- The Lord's Supper unites us with Jesus in κοινωνία (koinonia, “fellowship, community, participation”).
- Paul, rhetorically asks two questions.

*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks
a participation in the blood of Christ?*

*And is not the bread that we break a participation in the
body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 10:16 (NIV)*

The Unifying Effect Of Eating Together Has Been Given Eternal Significance.

- This meal is not just about me and Jesus.
This meal is about me and you. It binds us together.
- *Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. 1 Cor. 10:17*
- *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27*
- Communion demonstrates who we are, ONE FAMILY!

Communion Unites Past, Present and Future.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)

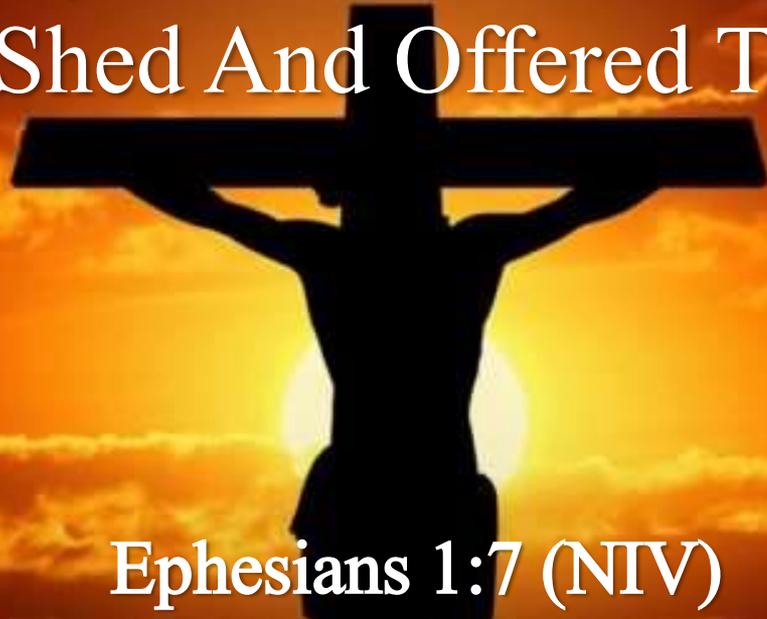
“...bread...gave thanks...do this in remembrance of me”

“...cup...drink it in remembrance of me.”

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

- Past = In remembrance.
- Present = “you proclaim the Lord’s death”
- Future = “until He comes.”

Christianity Has An Altar Where Blood
Was Shed And Offered To God.

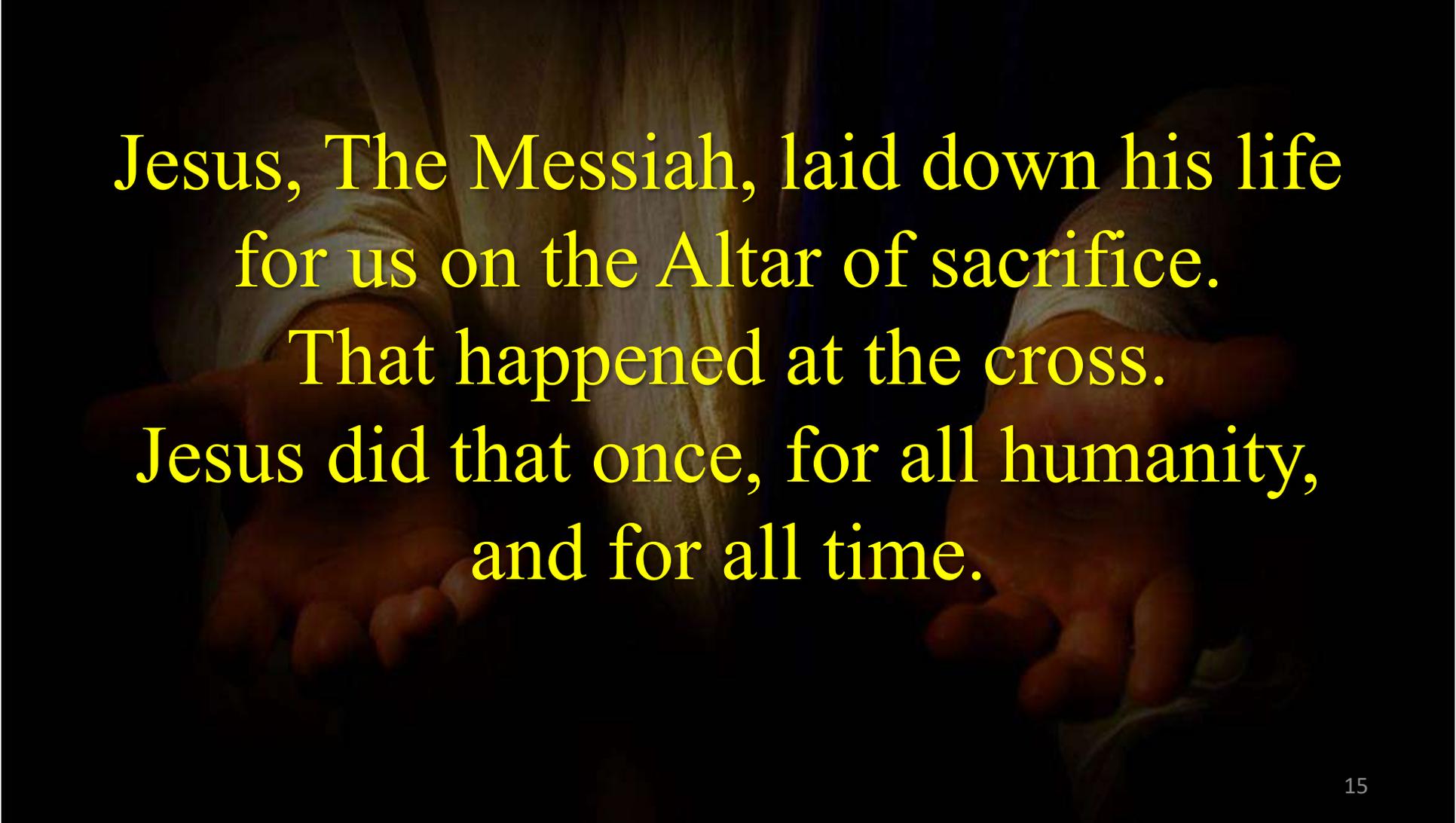


Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Altar and Table Have Different Purposes

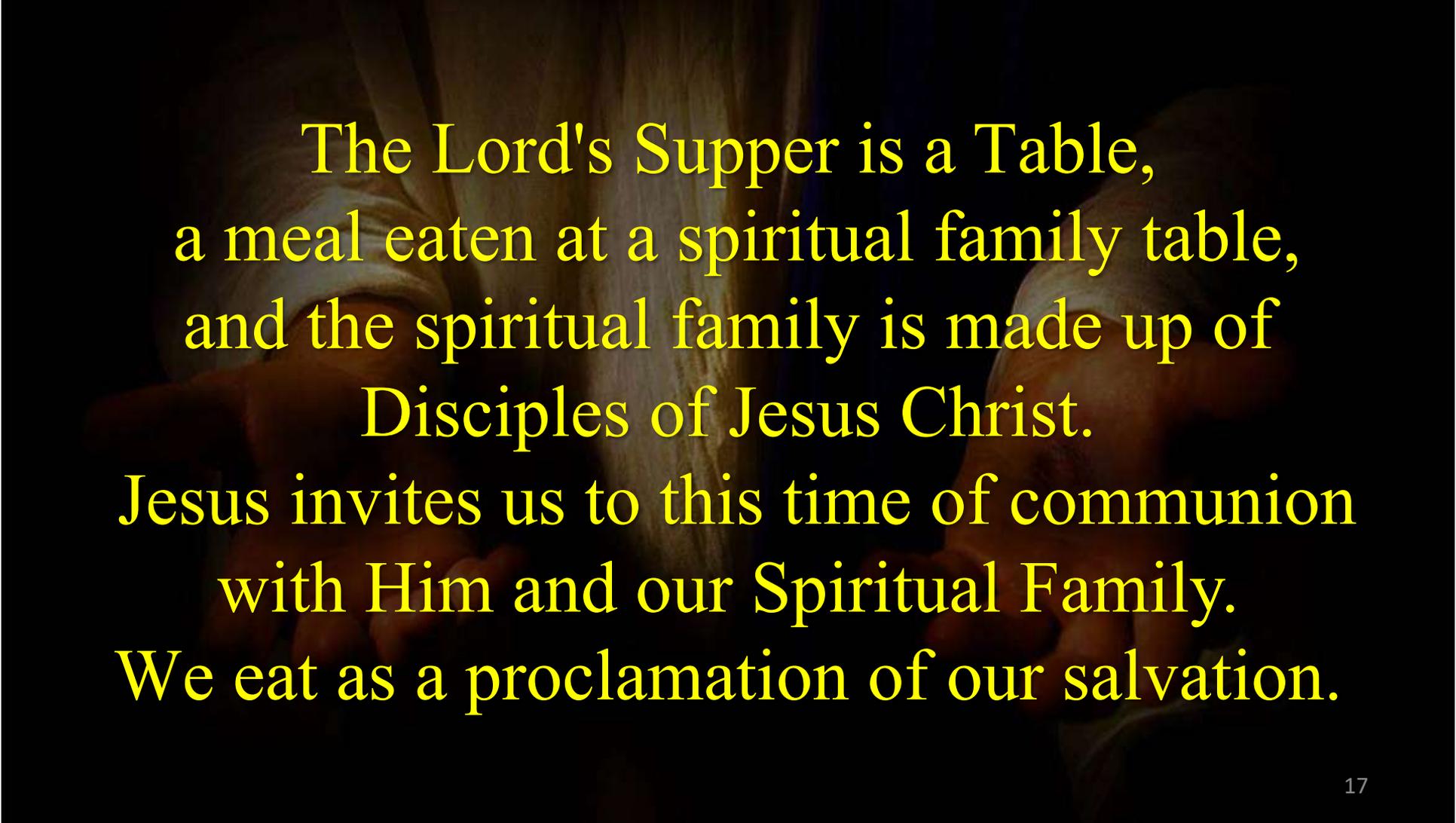
- An **Altar** is where sins are brought for atonement; a **Table** is where the forgiven commune with Jesus.
- An **Altar** is a place of sorrow and death; a **Table** is a place of hope, life and joy.
- An **Altar** is where one seeks reconciliation; a **Table** is where we experience reconciliation.
- An **Altar** may be a place for sadness and silence; a **Table** is a place for celebration and fellowship.



Jesus, The Messiah, laid down his life
for us on the Altar of sacrifice.
That happened at the cross.
Jesus did that once, for all humanity,
and for all time.

The Lord's Supper Is A Table, NOT An Altar.

- We do not come to the table to offer a sacrifice.
- We do not come to the table to get forgiveness of sin.
- We do not stay away from the table because we may have sinned against someone. We've wrongly applied Matthew 5:24 *"...leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."*
- **This Passage Is NOT About Taking Communion!**



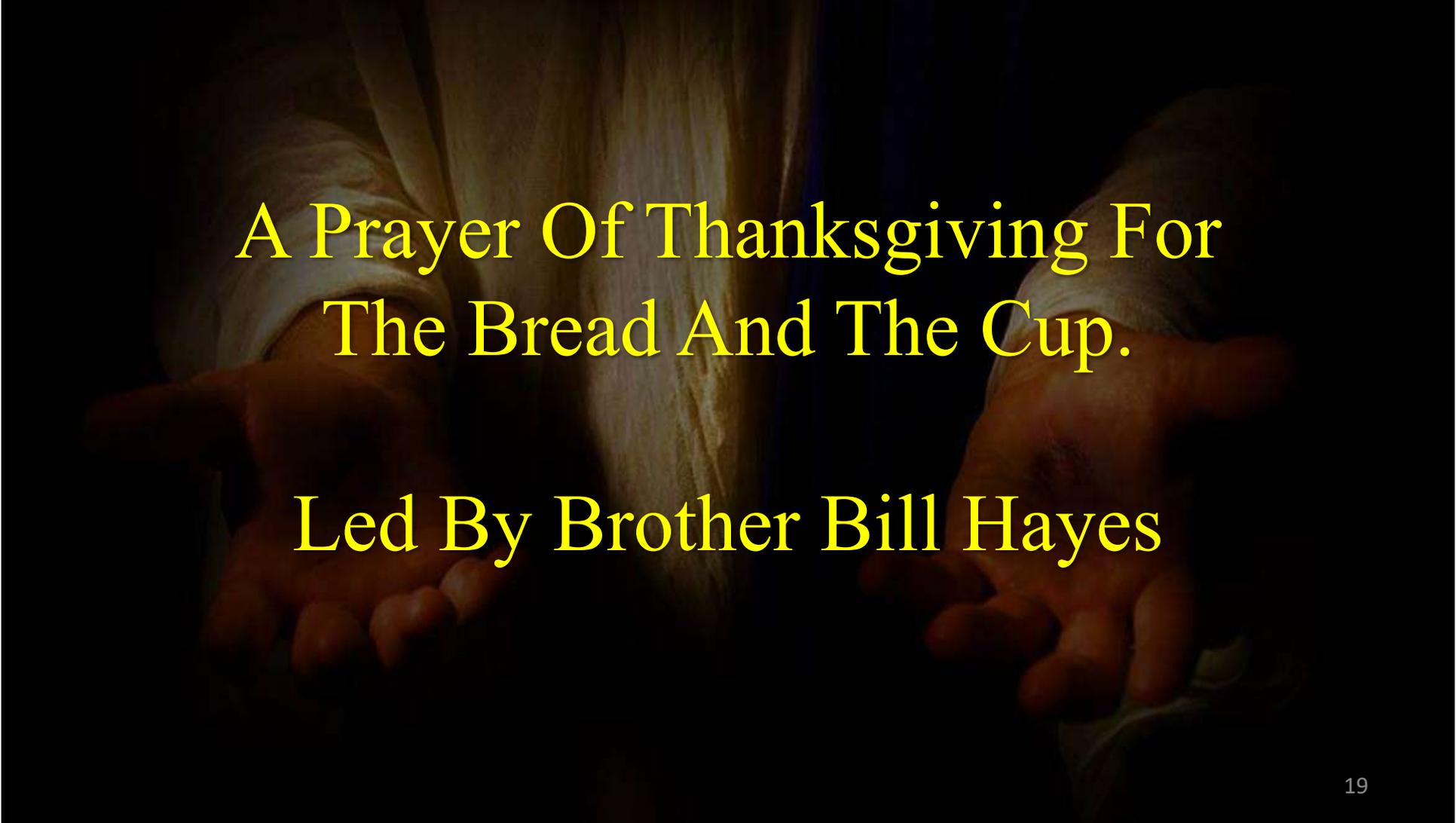
The Lord's Supper is a Table,
a meal eaten at a spiritual family table,
and the spiritual family is made up of
Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus invites us to this time of communion
with Him and our Spiritual Family.
We eat as a proclamation of our salvation.



It Is A Supper Jesus Instituted To
Lock In Our Unity!

A Unity that leads to
Union and Communion,
Commonality and Community,
Cohesion and Camaraderie.



**A Prayer Of Thanksgiving For
The Bread And The Cup.**

Led By Brother Bill Hayes

Come to the Table

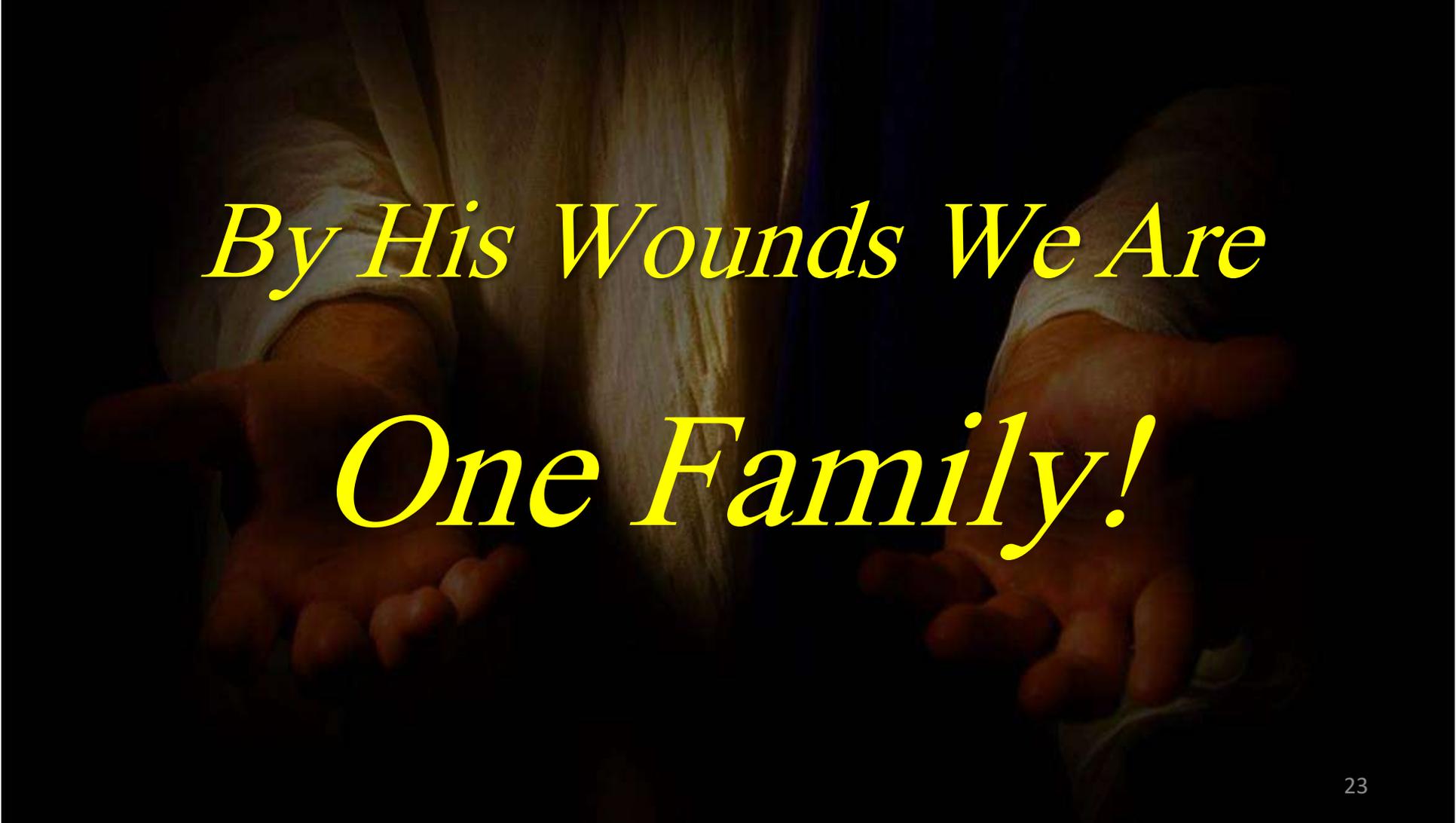


Three Reasons Jesus Wants Us To Be ONE

1. That the world may know that we are Jesus' disciples.
2. That the world will see the identity of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in us. As they share the exact same essence and purpose, to redeem the world, we are to be one in faith, hope and love as we bear God's image to the world, in the power of the Spirit.
3. We can do more and greater things, for the kingdom, when we are united, than we can when we are divided.

Let Us Embrace Our Oneness By...

- Honoring Jesus' prayer for our unity.
- Serving each other with humility.
- Submitting to the transforming work of the Spirit that indwells all baptized disciples.
- Embracing the relational, communal, nature of the Lord's Supper.



*By His Wounds We Are
One Family!*