

# Communion talk

**John 3:14** *But even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

**John 3:15** *so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

This verse talks of Jesus, the son of man being elevated to a position where he is easily seen.

He was talking about his death on a cross where he was literally lifted up and died in a place situated on a hill outside the city limits, where a lot of people were coming and going and there a lot of people saw him perish.

But what I want to look at today is the context of Jesus saying, that he must be lifted up.

He mentioned Moses lifting up a serpent in the wilderness in verse 14.

This is directing us to an incident in Israeli history where the children of Israel were in transition between being slaves in Egypt and conquerors in Canaan.

But because of their unbelief they were ready to conquer Canaan so here they were in the desert being given by God every day the manna, having their everyday needs met while living in the desert.

But in spite of God providing for all their needs, **Numbers 21:4-9** tells us the story that they complained about the manner God gave them every day and as a result God sent them a plague.

It was a plague of poisonous snakes and scripture tells us a lot of Israelites died when these snakes came into the camp biting people inflicting poison into their bodies.

The people begged for Moses to do something so as a good pastor would do, he asked the Lord what was the next step?

**Verse 7 says he prayed for the people** and God gave him instruction how to stop the plague.

Moses was to get a piece of bronze and produce a sculpture depicting a snake, that he was to put on top of a pole for everyone to see.

**Numbers 21:9** *And Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole. And it happened that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked upon the serpent of brass, he lived.*

That was the end of the story. Those who made the effort to believe that looking at a statue of a snake on a pole would save them were saved from the plague.

Those who chose not to look at the bronze statue died.

I am sure there were a lot of people even at that time where the presence of God was seen every day in a cloud by day and fire by night thought it might have been a bit weird to believe that if you look at a bronze statue, you will be healed of a deadly disease.

In the same way today people may find it hard to believe that if you choose to focus your attention on the Lord, you can also be set free from anything afflicting you.

Strange but true! If you choose to look on the Lord and believe in him, you don't have to perish, but can have eternal life both here and later on in heaven, all by looking at the Lord.

That Bible passage I think is pretty relevant for today. Over the last couple of weeks there has been a virus come out of China that a lot of people have died from.

It's called the Coronavirus.

At least 213 people have now been killed by the coronavirus, with the number of confirmed cases topping over 9,600 globally.

Nations are rightfully taking measures to stop the disease from spreading.

- Russia is closing its border with China until the end of February
- British Airlines, Lufthansa, Air France, and other airlines suspended flights to China
- Italy has moved to close air traffic to and from China.
- Australia is taking its citizens out of Wuhan to Christmas Island where they have to be in quarantine for two weeks.

Being a virus there is no known cure for it so of course the attention has been on nations trying to contain it or individuals trying not to catch it through wearing surgical masks etc.

But I want to say something today that I am sure you will all agree with.

Sure we have to take precautions and measures not to catch this virus, but I know the cure.

**John 3:14** *But even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

**John 3:15** *so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

If we believe that Jesus is our Jehovah Rafa, our healer and look to him, just as the Israelites chose to look at bronze snake, we can receive supernatural healing because **we choose to believe in the unbelievable.**

Communion isn't just all about remembering Jesus death on the cross.

It isn't just all about remembering the sacrifice he made so that we would have forgiveness of sins.

**Its also a reminder we can be set free not only from sin, but also sickness, if only we would believe.**

Paul as we know makes mention of communion in 1 Corinthians 11.

In his writing on this subject he spends a bit of time reminding them of how they were going about taking communion the wrong way.

Some believers had turned communion into **an opportunity for food.**

We are going to be having lunch after church, but we won't be partaking in gluttony because a lot of food turns you into someone who isn't a firm believer any more!

You are more like a flabby believer.

I am encouraging our church this week to abstain from food or something else they like in order to reconnect with God for the new year.

An absence of food in our bodies often does enable us to hear Gods voice better. Not all the time but a lot of the time that is the case.

Other believers were coming to the Lords table with unforgiveness in their hearts.

As a result they were getting sick.

They were coming to the Lords table focused on themselves but forgetting that communion is a time when we are to focus on God and the other believers he has put us with.

But a lot of them were focused on what others had done to them refusing to let go of things and as a result they were getting sick.

**1Corinthians 11:27** *So that whoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, he will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

**1Corinthians 11:28** *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.*

**1Corinthians 11:29** *For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks condemnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

**1Corinthians 11:30** *For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and many sleep.*

They were conducting communion in the wrong way because they were focused on either their physical needs (food) of their emotional needs focusing on the unforgiveness they had in their hearts towards others.

All that being said, if taking communion the wrong way can cause sickness, **then taking it the right way can certainly bring healing.**

### **Testimony:**

A young mum called Rebecca wanting to get back her hour-glass figure after giving birth pulled a shoulder muscle in the gym and this gave her constant pain in her shoulder for two years.

It affected her ability to do housework, carry her baby but also, she had trouble playing the violin which she loved to do.

Despite the many physiotherapy sessions that included electric current treatments and ultra-sound, the pain would come and go. Sometimes it was a very dull ache that stung, other times it was very sharp and sudden and the arm would involuntarily let go of usually the small objects like toothbrush and crayons.

She was told by her doctor to give up the violin, which she loved, not to carry her baby around and cut back on the housework and then maybe her shoulder would heal.

She attended Joseph Princes New Creation church in Singapore and was encouraged to take communion on a daily basis; because **when you remember there is healing through the cross, that enables you to receive healing.**

**She started doing that for a few months and the family loved it, but the pain continued until one day...**she noticed she was able to do the things she couldn't do before.

- She did her housework looking for pain, but it simply wasn't there.
- She picked up her violin expecting it to hurt, but it didn't.

She was totally healed and in her facebook page she put her healing down to one thing.

**She chose to commune with God every day with her family** over bread and drink remembering that God isn't just her saviour, **He is her healer.**

**John 3:14** *But even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

**John 3:15** *so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

If we choose to "lift up" the Lord in our lives, remembering he isn't just our saviour, but our healer as well, the Bible promises us that if we choose to believe in Him, we won't perish, but have everlasting life.

As we take the bread and juice today, lets always remember that.

As they world panics because of the coronavirus, we need to let people know that if they are sick, **focusing on the Lord and thanking him for their healing is the way of being delivered from what is making them sick.**

**If you are sick today, or know of someone who is, lets focus on the Lord believing he is our healer when we choose to look at him!!!**

**Amen!**