

BELPRES CHURCH

Sermon: Real Hope. Real Healing

Dr. Scott Dudley and Rev. Harvey Drake

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Dr. Scott Dudley: Well this morning, we're going to do something a little different. The reason that I am sitting here is that Pastor Harvey Drake and I are actually just going to have a conversation today, a pretty unscripted conversation, which for a Presbyterian, is terrifying. But Pastor Harvey here assures me that it'll be okay because the Holy Spirit is with us. It has been a very difficult week, as you know. Racial tension, protests that were then hijacked by criminals and looting and destruction, which is... makes everything worse, and felt like today was not really a day for a sermon, but was really more a day that where Pastor Harvey and I could have a conversation. We've known each other... Pastor Harvey and I have known each other for 17 years. This church has been a friend to Pastor Harvey and vice versa.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: So we are going to have a conversation that points to Jesus, because we believe very strongly that the only solution to all the divisions in our culture, particularly the racial divisions, comes from Jesus.

I want to start with a passage of scripture. Many of you have heard this a lot before, and it comes from Ephesians chapter two. Where the apostle Paul speaking to Jews and Gentiles who had hated each other for centuries-

Pastor Harvey Drake: Centuries.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Centuries of just conflict and division says to Jews and Gentiles, "But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off, have been brought near by the blood of Christ, for he is our peace. He is our peace. In his flesh, he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall that is the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace and might reconcile both groups to God in one body, through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it."

Jesus is the one who can bring us together. Jesus is the one who can bring true justice and reconciliation. And so Pastor Harvey and I just want to kind of have a conversation about that. And Harvey, if you could just start. We've talked the last couple of weeks. This has been a really hard couple of weeks for you, personally, for people of color. Could you just talk a little bit about how it's affected you personally?

Pastor Harvey Drake: Oh, man. Yeah, you're right. As we talked, I had described to you what was going on in my own life as a pastor, as a minister, as a one who serves. It was a tough, tough week. Past couple weeks have been really tough. In fact, it was so tough, man, I've been crying literally off and on all week. The strongest cry I had was when I was meeting with my staff. We were talking through this and I just broke down and I cried so hard. You know that kind of cry you have when you can't breathe through your nose, you can only breathe through your mouth.

The reason I cried... I was crying, number one, I think for Ahmaud Arbery, for Breonna Taylor, for George Floyd. I was crying because of the brokenness that we saw. Like you said, the peaceful protests were hijacked. But I also began to think about the church and what we are and all of this and how silent we've been, and I was just broken because I said, "God, we are not living into your vision at all, and we're not leading your vision at all." I was just broken. You can hear the tears of my other staff as well. And it was just a tough, tough, tough time, but it increased my resolve to do whatever I can to help the body of Christ realize that God, I think, in this moment is offering a clarion call to us to step into this so that this thing can be seen and it can be changed in a very authentic and dramatic way.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yeah, I think I agree with you. I think this is our moment.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Yes.

Dr. Scott Dudley: The church has always been on the forefront of any progress in racial justice and racial reconciliation, the church has always been on the forefront. And you and I agree that Jesus is the only answer. You said it very well many times. It's not a skin problem, it's a sin problem.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Absolutely.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Talk a little bit from your experience, how did we get here? Like what are some of the things you've observed just in your lifetime?

Pastor Harvey Drake: Yeah. Well, let me start by giving this illustration. 1986, I was encouraged to go to Mendenhall, Mississippi to observe a ministry because, actually, someone wanted me to be on their worship staff to lead their worship ministry in a church in Bellevue. And I said, "No, I'm called to Seattle." They said, "Well, have you ever thought about doing this ministry similar to the John Perkins?" I said, "No, it's a rural ministry. This is the urban context." They said, "Go."

So we went. While we were there, we discovered in 1986, that Black women were not allowed to go to the Bible study at the White church that was publicly advertised.

Dr. Scott Dudley: 1986?

Pastor Harvey Drake: 1986. It just blew me away. In 2013, my wife and I went to New York together, we had never been there together, on vacation in the middle of Times Square. It was a Saturday. Shoulder to shoulder people. It was crazy. That particular day, George Zimmerman was acquitted for the murder of Trayvon Martin. A thousand-member march came down the streets, stopped everything. You could not move. You could hardly breathe.

That was a Saturday. The next day, Sunday, we went to a very well-known church all across this nation, probably the world, and not one word was spoken in that church. No lament, no cry, no prayer for Trayvon, no prayer for George Zimmerman, no prayer for our nation, nothing. And I was just... I was

stunned by that. I thought, well, how can this be? And the church was a third, at least a third African-American. It was led by a guy who happened to be Caucasian, right? Hispanics in the church, Asians in the church. Absolutely nothing. And I thought, this is why we still have the problem.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Because we're not talking about it.

Pastor Harvey Drake: The church is not talking about it. Right?

Dr. Scott Dudley: And setting it in a biblical context and saying, "The answer here is Jesus. The reconciliation comes through him," I'm pretty sure, Harvey, I didn't say anything that day, too. I'm pretty sure.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Well, I'm sure a lot of people didn't say... Now, some people, give them credit that they don't know what to say, but I would rather err on the side of saying something than nothing at all, because I can always go back and apologize if I say something like a dunce, and I often do. In my church, they'll tell you, there are times I've come back the next Sunday said, "Oops, I think I said this and I should not have, right?"

Dr. Scott Dudley: In your church, they tell you while you're preaching, right?

Pastor Harvey Drake: Well-

Dr. Scott Dudley: Here, they just send you.

Pastor Harvey Drake: They certainly do. But I think we have this history where we supported, the church, theologically, supported a lot of heinous things. And our silence encouraged that support, right?

So you think about how even slavery was supported by the church, right? You think about the Jim Crow law supported by the church, right? Theologically, we gave them a framework. There are some of us who could not go to your average theological institution because they did not allow Black people in. So there are a lot of Bible institutes that popped up to try and help African-Americans and others get some kind of biblical training because until the mid '80s, they didn't want you there, but it was sanctioned by this church.

And I think this is how we've gotten there. We have been too quiet. We have got to start speaking to things that are out of alignment with what God wants.

Dr. Scott Dudley: And bring healing and reconciliation.

Pastor Harvey Drake: And bring healing and reconciliation, which means by the way that I think one of the gifts that the Black community and other communities of color have is that we have this incredible ability to forgive. Now some can be pretty hard and pretty calloused and pretty bitter. But by and large, we're forgiving.

Look at what happened to those nine people that were killed by [Dillon Rude 00:07:48]. He said in a Bible study for an entire hour, "Kill those people," and the families had the nerve to get on camera and say, "We forgive you."

Dr. Scott Dudley: We forgive you.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Lord, have mercy. And that's needed. That's a needed element if we're going to see the healing that needs to take place based on Jesus's desire.

Dr. Scott Dudley: And I think that's important. You and I have talked about this. This is often framed as people of color versus police.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: And I think that you and I both don't find that to be very helpful-

Pastor Harvey Drake: Not at all. Not at all.

Dr. Scott Dudley: ... because it's not going to bring reconciliation. Can you talk a little bit about that?

Pastor Harvey Drake: Yeah. Let's face it. For some reason, there's been this little animosity between the two communities. A lot of us don't trust the police. Now, we don't say all police are evil. I will never ever go on record in saying that. There are bad apples in every institution that exists. And when we have bad apples, we need to address those bad apples. There needs to be some accountability.

Up to this point, we feel like there hadn't been very much. As it has been said many times, we have to tell our sons and daughters to be very careful when they have encounters with police. Why? Because for some reason, there seems to be this interesting dynamic that takes place. And we want to see that change. And it will change when we have accountability.

What was so powerful about George Floyd's incident is that the whole world saw it. And I believe the whole world gasped, "Oh my goodness. I can't believe this." And this could be a galvanizing moment for all of us because we can see what happens when a bad apple is in action. This was the first time that we can tell where somebody was actually fired immediately without pay and arrested, eventually, and charged. And that's going to help because then people will feel like, "Well, maybe I can be safe because when there is an unfortunate situation that takes place, that perhaps there will be someone held accountable."

Dr. Scott Dudley: I think if we can have healthy conversations between communities, and I know you've been part of this, and I know that Seattle police chief reached out to you-

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's correct.

Dr. Scott Dudley: ... because I think there's also ways. How can we train, equip and support cops so that they're not getting into situations they don't know how to handle and all of that?

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's exactly right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Because I think people of color are having a whole lot of experiences that people like me are not having. And so I think people who are white, I'm not experiencing a whole lot of stuff that you are and that people of color are. And it's taken me a long time to realize that just because I'm not experiencing it, doesn't mean that y'all aren't experiencing them.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's true.

Dr. Scott Dudley: And I know you've had some of them. What are some of those things that kind of happen on a daily, or maybe not daily, but it's... happens more than it should, that you might experience that I don't because you're a person of color?

Pastor Harvey Drake: Well, let me tell you what happened to my son. We're trying to teach him to drive. My wife picks him up from school. He's got a couple of friends in the car. So he's in training, so she allows him to drive home. She sits in the back seat. She's only five one and a half, so she's kind of low. You can't see her in the backseat. He gets literally to the top of the hill, one turn from our house, and he's stopped by the police.

They didn't realize that my wife was in the car. So when my wife sat up, she said, "What's going on, officer?" "Oh, they just reported that there was a van stolen. And so we're just checking things out." Well, we were in a Ford Taurus. It didn't look like a van. The only thing my wife did wrong was she didn't get his badge number, because I'm thinking, why did you stop these two young guys? They are not in a van, they're in a Ford. You know what I mean? So little things like that happen.

Then you have all the subtle things that happen where people compliment you on how well you speak, as though that's an odd thing. Really? Really? You've been watching Oprah for how long? Well, she's very articulate, you know what I mean, and very loquacious. And it's just this weird thing that we encounter. I'm hoping that this moment will shift those things.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yeah. I think part of it is learning to have conversations. I think one of the things that has changed for me over the last five years, has been just to start to listen to people of color that are having those experiences.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Sure.

Dr. Scott Dudley: There were so many of them, that after a while, you... just a thinking person goes, "There's too many of these to explain a way." And I've shared some of those in sermons before. My parents' church, there was a Black man who worked in a restaurant and the restaurant was robbed, and police came and they did a thorough investigation and found zero evidence pointing to anybody. No evidence at all and they fired the Black man.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Fire the Black man.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Or Black people in this congregation being asked for ID if they're writing a check, when the White people in line were not asked for. I think it still happens. I don't know that it happens every day.

Pastor Harvey Drake: No, no.

Dr. Scott Dudley: I think it only takes a couple of times before you start to feel like you're not a full member of the community.

Pastor Harvey Drake: You know what frustrates the average person is that, if they did not do it themselves, then they don't want to be held accountable for that. But we fail to realize that there's still these things in our system, whether we do them intentionally or not, that we're guilty of. There are times

when I have to apologize as a Black person to a White person, because there are some knuckleheads that will do something to a White person that should not be done. And even though I did not do it personally, I still feel some onus for that and I have to apologize. When I was in junior high school, I should say, I was in junior high school when the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King... Can I say that again?

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yeah.

Pastor Harvey Drake: The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King... See, that's why we just need to go by first names from now on. When he was assassinated, we were infuriated when it came across the news. The next day we went to school, and I don't ever remember bothering the girls, but we were mean to the boys. We kicked them, we spat on, we pushed them downstairs, we sacked them, we punched them. We said, "This is for what your friend did to my friend." And it was just this horrible, horrible thing that... I should say that was in my BC days, before Christ, right? But what was happening is, in that moment, I was doing wrong to those people.

Now, the whole bunch of people didn't do that. And they can say, "Well, that's not my problem. I didn't do it." But after I came to Christ and start encountering Jesus in the scripture, it changed the way I viewed people. And I realized in that moment... And I have literally repented for this over and over again. God forgive me because I was not seeing those young boys as people created in the image of God. And when we fail to see each other the way God sees us, guess what? It becomes easier to mistreat people. It becomes easier just to say, "Oh well, they'll take care of that." No, at some point, we have to realize while we may not be personally responsible, there is some responsibility.

Now, let me give another illustration out of the scripture. Nehemiah in chapter one, when he heard about the walls being broke out, his friends, cousins, whoever his homeys, came to see him and said, "How things at home" "Oh, they're horrible? The gates have been burned. The walls are broken down. We're ashamed. We're insecure. There's no safety." He did not call the session, he did not call a strategy meeting. He went to prayer, and the Bible describes him going into a season of prayer, about three months where he fasted, where he mourned, where he cried and he confessed. One of the most powerful phrases that he said, "My fathers and I have sinned." He was not even there, yet he felt the responsibility to the community. And that's one of the gifts that if we allow ourself to have, we can have. We do it because we feel that we know it's happening, even though we're not personally responsible.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Even though we didn't do it. Psalm 78 is a confession of past sins of the Israelites, the whole Psalm is.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Exactly right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: So what are some things... Where's the hope?

Pastor Harvey Drake: Where's the hope?

Dr. Scott Dudley: There's got to be hope, because Jesus brings hope.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: What can keep the people of God do?

Pastor Harvey Drake: Well, I want to start with encouraging us to reread the Bible, but a little slower so we can actually see what the Bible says. And then make a new commitment to actually do it. The thing I love about my friends in Africa and other parts of the world, they don't argue with the scripture. We Americans, in the Western Church, love to argue. "Well, what's the context and did he really mean that? That's not practical. And it's different now..." They don't argue, and they see powerful things happen.

I want us to come to a place where if the word of God says it, do it, right? And so we read the scripture, and then from there we have to ask God, "What changes do we need to make personally to see this thing changed?" I'm talking about radical transformation, not just activity.

One of the things that flusters me about our government is that they pride themselves on the activity. But where's the change? And we'll talk about the education system in a minute, because that's where we really need to see some change. I'm talking to the superintendent, trying to support, trying to ask how we can help, only to discover that even today only 34% of the Black students of Seattle schools read at grade level. Why is that? What are we going to do to change that? What is in the system that's causing them to be so off, right? Some of it may be the family, some of it may not be. Whatever it is, we need to get after it and make sure it is corrected.

And that's one of the things that we can do as people, right? We need to be bridge builders. We need to establish relationships. We need to be talking to each other and hearing each other, right? But then there are some practical things that we can do. We know what's out there. We know unemployment. We know about homelessness. We know about affordability. Those things exist. And if we're in position, as some of you are, where you can actually instigate some kind of change because of the authority and that influence that you have, we need to start doing those things. So that the church is leading this change. And you're right, the hope is in Christ.

We've got to start seeing each other the way God sees us. We have to start accepting that there are differences between us. I don't need you to be like me, and I hope you don't want me to be like you, because when we put all of us together, we get a clearer picture of the enormity of God. He is a God of creativity, right?

The worst thing we can do, when we talk about reconciliation, is trying to make everybody one. One of whom? No, we accept that there are differences and see them as a cause for celebration, not a reason for separation, right? Come on, let's have some parties together, man. Where's John Kim? John Kim, I need some barbecue, baby, some brisket and some ribs, because I know you get down on that. And I think you bake pies, right?

Dr. Scott Dudley: I bake pies.

Pastor Harvey Drake: I'm waiting to have some pie, brother. Because we need to start establishing more relationships. And like you said earlier, we need to hear each other, right? I used to think that all White people were wealthy, until I started engaging with some and realized, "Oh, you were broke and poor, too?" I didn't know nothing. Who were the Ozarks and who were the Appalachians? I didn't know any of that, until I started engaging. And when we start establishing mutually respectful relationships, I think incredible things can happen.

Dr. Scott Dudley: I think so, too. I think for me, up until about five or six years ago, I wouldn't touch this in the pulpit and got emails about not touching it in the pulpit. But I think what changed was two things. I believe it was Jesus working in my heart, and I started looking at the scripture and just saw it everywhere.

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Pentecost, the first church, is multiethnic. The passage I just read. I mean, there's hardly any book in the New Testament that doesn't talk about bringing together people who've hated each other for centuries.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Exactly right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: And I think that was the Holy Spirit just helping me see things differently. But the second thing was having conversations with people like you, and Reggie Witherspoon, and Sergio, and our staff and others. Even my own wife. Been married to her, she's Chinese, realizing she's having different experiences.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: So it was really Jesus and relationship that I think started to change me a little bit on this. And I think that's something the church... We have Jesus, and we can do relationships.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: That doesn't mean, by the way, go find a person of color that you don't know that well, and start pummeling them with questions. There are resources to start with. For those of us who are White, I'll give those at the end. But where there's a strong relationship, like with you and me, then those conversations can happen.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Absolutely.

Dr. Scott Dudley: I also think with the education piece, closing the achievement gap is huge. And the church can do that. This church is trying with Eastside Academy and Jubilee REACH and Kid REACH. There are things that we can do there as well. And you and I have talked about, also, just spiritual resources and disciplines. Humility is huge in this, I've heard you say that a lot.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Absolutely.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Right? We have to approach this with a humble spirit.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Absolutely.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Because if we're yelling at each other-

Pastor Harvey Drake: Oh my goodness.

Dr. Scott Dudley:... "I'm right. You're wrong," we don't get anywhere.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's what we continue to do, Pastor, right? I mean, I want to point the finger at you as a White man. You're guilty of most things that are wrong in the world. Now, the truth is, they're guilty of some things, but not everything, right? But how would I feel if somebody was constantly accusing me? I would back away, I would not want to engage. At the same time, if I'm talking about something that's absolutely truth and factual, and people continue to deny it, then I'm going to remain angry. So then we have this cycle that goes, right?

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yeah.

Pastor Harvey Drake: I accuse, you deny, I get angry. I accuse, you deny, I get angry. Then you get angry, and you accuse, and then you walk away and we never get anywhere. God help us to change our wicked ways so we can come together, lay down our swords, right, so that we can be at peace with one another.

Forgiveness has got to be a major part of this thing as well. I, as a Black person, Hispanic people, Asian people, people of color need to be able to, "Okay, we can't carry this forever." Every conversation can't be a reminder of everything that went wrong forever. At some point, we let it go. We don't forget it, but we don't make it the primary core of what we talk about when we come together. But let's walk in humility. Even if you have the truth, it is always going to be rejected if it is not given in humility.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yeah. I think that cycle of accusation, denial, right? I deny, you don't feel heard. You make the accusation stronger, I deny it stronger. And we get further and further apart.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Further and further apart.

Dr. Scott Dudley: I think that confession and repentance and forgiveness are our biblical tools. And so, yeah, I didn't own slaves, all of that, sure, but I've been blind, and I've, in my own ways, contributed, even through just my silence. And I can confess and then you can forgive me and say, "Love you, brother." And that brings us closer together, rather than accuse, deny, accuse, deny.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Let me show you one thing here. When we talk about privilege, nobody wants to talk about White privilege.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yeah.

Pastor Harvey Drake:

Oh my goodness. Are you serious? Okay, but think about this, because most people want to tie privilege to economics only, right? But what about access? What about options? What about education? What about business? What about all these other connections, right? Because if we lose everything right now, because of our connections, we can probably regain some of what we lost, right? So we've got to broaden our understanding of what privilege is connected to and tied to, and I think that may help us and we won't be so offended when people say, "But you are people of privilege," right?"

I was in South Africa, the first time. Our host set us up in a, I think it was a youth hostel. It was not a good environment for our team. And so we asked them to move us. And so they found a hotel that was embedded in the shopping center. They called and they said they had rooms. When we got there, it wasn't 30 minutes later, we packed up, we got there. When our African friend walked to the front desk, guess what, the rooms are gone. We backed out, and we sent our White counterpart in, guess what, the rooms suddenly appeared. We had to keep the Americans down because they wanted to pitch a fit, because we're right about everything. But what we learned is that there are people who have privilege. And when you have privilege, don't deny it. Understand how best how to use it.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yeah, use it for good.

Pastor Harvey Drake: And in that situation, they got us into our rooms. When they said the rooms were there, we all walked up. It was hilarious to get in and watch their faces, right? Because they realize they'd been caught knee deep in a pile of dung. And we just went on and enjoyed the balance of our

trip. So let's understand better what we mean when we talk about privilege and White privilege. Let's face it, right? Some of us do have access to more than others.

Dr. Scott Dudley: And how do we use it for good?

Pastor Harvey Drake: How do we use it for good?

Dr. Scott Dudley: And we can. We have just a few minutes left. What else would you want to say to, I said, BelPres?

Pastor Harvey Drake: What would I say to BelPres? What would I say to me?

Dr. Scott Dudley: Mm-hmm (affirmative). What would you say to you?

Pastor Harvey Drake: I think I want all of us to realize, I think, this is an Esther moment, that we are in place for such a time as this. I think it's also a time for the church to kind of lead. I don't think the world can do this.

Dr. Scott Dudley: I do not.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Right? They don't have the power, nor do they have the will. As the church has Jesus, we have the word of God, we have the Holy spirit and we have each other. So we have the mechanisms and elements. The question is, do we have the will to break from the status quo so that we can lead this change? We have got to talk to each other. We have got to talk to our families. We have got to talk to our children. We have got to talk to our bosses. Everybody we're in contact with, we've got to start saying... And we don't have to be mean, harsh, brash or ugly. But we've got to be clear, and we've got to be direct. So I would say to the church, this is our season. I think this could be a catalytic moment to see this nation change, if not the world.

Dr. Scott Dudley: I think if the church leads it, we might also see revival.

Pastor Harvey Drake: I think it will lead to that.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Because all those things about humility and gentleness and repentance and confession and forgiveness and all the stuff we just talked about, those are the resources the church has, that Christ gives us.

Pastor Harvey Drake: Let me make one other point. I want the church to stop seeing this stuff as political.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Yes.

Pastor Harvey Drake: This is a spiritual issue, right? The fact that we can't get along, we are violating God's rule. God created us all in His image and His likeness. There is no clause anywhere in the Greek, the Hebrew, the Aramaic, the Ugaritic, the Acadian, nowhere that says the White man is better than the Chinese woman, or the Polish woman is better than the African man. It is not there. And so therefore, when we mistreat each other, we are violating a spiritual law. And we've too long tried to address spiritual issues through social means, and it has not worked. So I'm saying to the church, let's start seeing things through God's eyes. Got the Romans, I think it's... No, it's Psalms 89:14 and Psalms 97:2, both

says that the foundation of God's throne is righteousness and justice. Let's start living into God's sense of what is right, God's sense of what is just.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Amen. Thank you, Harvey. Appreciate it. We're going to have communion now and I just realized that I didn't tell you at the beginning to go get bread because that's what happens when a Presbyterian doesn't have a script. But we can participate, either run to the kitchen right now, or just participate in prayer, because I think it's when we come to this table... And Pastor Harvey and I are going to serve communion together. When we come to this table, I think we see the resources that we have.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: I think we see in here Jesus' body broken for us, died for us to forgive us of our sins. Harvey, the one thing, there are many things we have in common, but one, the most important thing, is you and I stand as children of God, redeemed in Jesus Christ equally in need of his grace and forgiveness at the foot of the cross. And when we start there, not in politics, not in arguing, but I think when we start here at this table, communion shares the same root word as community.

Pastor Harvey Drake: That's right.

Dr. Scott Dudley: And so I think when we come to this table, we are reminded, as you say so eloquently, this is a sin problem, it's not a skin problem. It's a spiritual thing, it's not a political thing. And this, this is where we're reminded of the spiritual power we have, because on the very night that Jesus was arrested and betrayed, and about to be denied by his friends, he sat at table with them anyway and forgave them and broke down the dividing wall of hostility and he said, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." So wherever you are, whether you have actual bread or not, eat in remembrance of him.

Pastor Harvey Drake: And we're thankful for the blood. This cup represents his blood, which was shed for us. And the Bible declares that without the shedding of blood there's no remission or removal of sin. In the old covenant, the blood covered sin, it didn't remove sin, but Jesus's blood has removed our sin which is why we can walk in freedom, which is why we can love each other, which is why we can grow and improve and do better. Amen.

Dr. Scott Dudley: Amen.

Pastor Harvey Drake: So in the same manner, he took the cup when he was with those disciples and he said, "This cup represents my blood and a new covenant. As often as you drink this, you do it in remembrance of me." Whatever you have, let's drink together.

In our church, we usually hold a cup up as a symbol of freedom that we have in Jesus. Amen. Thank you, Jesus.

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