

June 4, 2023

## GATM: Glass Onion – Unity (I Cor 11:17-34)

*Sacrifice for the sake of unity.*

Bumper In – Trailer

### Plot and Themes (7min, -30)

- Greeting, Connect Card
- **Aaron and Jacqui on stage 2<sup>nd</sup> serve – pray for them.**
- Sermon notes in App – with the “fill in blanks” and more room for notes.
- **Basic plot – Miles Bron is a billionaire in charge of Alpha, which he founded with Cassandra (Andi) – but he forced her out. Miles hosts a party for his five ultra-influencer friends on his private island, filled with extraordinary extravagance – including Paul McCartney’s guitar and the Mona Lisa. The detective Benoit Blanc tells Miles that the guests all have a motive to kill him because Miles is essentially blackmailing them all (they all have something shady in their businesses). Eventually some people do die, and it is a Clue-style murder mystery.**
- **\*Themes**
  - Wealth, power, and influence – everyone in this movie is ultra-rich, and the movie goes to great lengths to show the ludicrous nature of opulence.
    - Important b/c income inequality gap is growing (World Econ Forum reported in 2021: richest 10% earn 52% of world’s income, lowest 50% earn 8% - <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/12/global-income-inequality-gap-report-rich-poor/>)
  - *Are you taken in? Is this success?*
  - Cost for doing what is right.
  - Unity – they would sell out their friend to keep their positions (and they do it again at the end of the movie)
- **\*CLIP – friends sell Andi out.**
- **\*Today**
  - We will look at real-life situation in the Bible, the context of Paul’s teaching on communion, and how we can live those lessons in our lives today.

### Prayer

### Crisis in Corinth (13min, -23)

- \*I Cor 11:17-34 (p.956)

<sup>17</sup> But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. <sup>18</sup> First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. <sup>19</sup> But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God’s approval will be recognized!

<sup>20</sup> When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord’s Supper. <sup>21</sup> For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry

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while others get drunk. <sup>22</sup> What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!

- **\*Background**

CK Barrett, *First Epistle to the Corinthians*, Craig Keener, *IVP Bible Background Commentary*

- Paul started the Corinthian churches in Acts 18, stayed there 18 months with fruitful ministry. But the churches there struggled with living fully Christian lives – following sinful cultural ways of Greeks rather than the way of Christ. Paul wrote them letters to address their questions and challenge their thinking.
- He heard about how they celebrated the Lord's Supper – which was based on Passover (freedom from slavery, God's promises). They are acting more like Greco-Roman society – which was very separated based on class, separating people into separate rooms and serving different levels of food.
- Likely potluck-style – but rich people brought more food, better food, and would not share it. This “disgraced God's church and shamed the poor.”
- Problems
  - In America, we value equality but struggle with disparity (struggle to live equality or sharing).
  - Deeper issue for Christians – God's Table and Family are about UNITY.
    - This matters more than income, status, or power.
    - *In the movie – everyone is ultra-rich and powerful. Shows how far rich and powerful people will go to protect that status.*

<sup>23</sup> For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread <sup>24</sup> and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.” <sup>26</sup> For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

<sup>27</sup> So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. <sup>29</sup> For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

<sup>31</sup> But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. <sup>32</sup> Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

<sup>33</sup> So, my dear brothers and sisters, when you gather for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other. <sup>34</sup> If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together. I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.

***\*The answer – Sacrifice for the sake of unity.***

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- \*Sacrifice comfort. (vv.20-22, 33-34)
  - Be inconvenienced for the sake of unity.
  - Paul does not shame the rich for being rich.
    - Eat at home.
    - Share what you have.
    - Be hungry if needed for the sake of unity.
  - *Let that sink in – you live in a me-first, comfort and convenience culture.*
  
- \*Sacrifice being the center of the story. (vv.23-26)
  - Make Jesus the Hero of your story.
  - When people tell stories, they are either the hero or victim.
    - Think back on your last few stories about co-workers, family, or church.
    - Every story changes once Jesus enters.
  - *Gospel Mission – young man who shared his addiction to heroin and pornography, has surrendered his life to Jesus, has an accountability partner, and is honest and humble about his struggles. Not ashamed to say he is a sinner. He has chosen to live free with Jesus as the Hero of his story.*
  - Paul shared the story – not just solutions.
    - The Jesus Story is THE story of a Christian’s life.
    - Make Jesus the Hero of your story.
    - Be part of Jesus’ story that is still being told.
  
- \*Sacrifice the false image of yourself. (vv.27-32)
  - No one claims to be perfect – yet few practice confession.
    - Bible teaches believers to confess to God and each other.
    - Don’t need a priest – any Christian will do.
    - Every evening in prayer – accept shortfalls and receive forgiveness.
    - Every week in accountability – how is your walk with the Lord?
  - You are a forgiven sinner – who needs the table, needs others, and is needed by others.
  - Examine yourself with grace and humility.

### IRL – Practicing the Point (7-10min, -10)

- Glass Onion – story ends with the murderer revealed but the “friends” have no unity because they are still shallow, self-absorbed people who are not willing to sacrifice for unity.
  - Will you?
  
- *A family in our church right now that drive an hour to come to church (big sacrifice). They have family here, and they looked for a long time to find a place they belong. They stick around longer because they have invested much to be here – community and unity matter.*
  - Sacrifice for the sake of unity.
  - Sacrifice what is easy, comfortable, or convenient.
  - You need the Table, need God’s Family, and you are needed by others here.

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- Potlucks – early on, some people complained that young adults in 20s weren’t bringing enough food (and eating a lot of it). I listened to their concerns and knew their stories – their own adult kids and grandkids were not going to church. I asked, “How much food would you give for your family to attend church?” These brothers and sisters got the point and began to see the young adults as “their” kids and grandkids – even inviting them over to their houses for food. Young adults love food!
  - o Sacrifice for the sake of unity.
  - o Sacrifice comfort. Sacrifice being the center of the story. Sacrifice the false image of yourself.
  
- What is the Lord asking you to put into action from His Word today?

### Prayer

### Bumper Out – SpiderVerse Trailer

- Can get tickets and come with us this Thursday.

### Benediction – John 15:5