

The Lord's Table

Sunday, January 17th, 1988

Luke 22:19-20

“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also, the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”

I am going to bring a message today on the subject: “THE LORD’S TABLE.” I will be using for my text, the Book of Luke, Chapter 22, verses 19 and 20. The Scripture says, *“The Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, and brake it and He gave it to His disciples saying; This is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise, also the cup after supper saying, this cup is the new Covenant in My blood which is shed for you; this do in remembrance of Me.”*

In Luke 22, it was the Day of the Passover. It was the day before our Lord suffered on the cross. He met with His disciples in the upper room to observe the Passover Feast.

Israel had observed this Passover Feast once a year, every year, for hundreds of years. On this occasion, our Lord indicated to His disciples that this would be the last Passover, the very last Passover ever observed by believers. There would be no more keeping of the Passover Feast.

No more would men of faith be looking to God, looking for redemption, or the keeping the Passover Feast. It started in Egypt, and it continued until that day. That was when our Lord met in the Upper Room with His disciples, to observe the Passover Feast.

He indicated to them, that the Passover would never be observed again by believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 5:7 *“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”* Our Lord instituted at that time what we call, *“The Lord’s Table.”* That was when it was instituted, right then.

From this point, our Lord said, *“Till He comes.”* He is talking about His return, His second coming. From this point on until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again, believers would observe the Lord’s Table, and as often as they would observe it (not necessarily once a year), they show the Lord’s death until he comes.

I would like you to take your Bible, and turn with me to 1 Corinthians 11:23. Now, listen to the Apostle Paul. He is writing from the church at Corinth and this is what he is saying, *“For I have received of the Lord.”* He had gotten this from the Lord.

Paul said on another occasion, *“I didn’t get my gospel from a man. I didn’t receive it from men; I received it directly from God.”* Here, the Apostle Paul said, *“I have received of the Lord that which I delivered unto you, (unto the church), that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed by Judas, took bread and when He had given thanks, He brake the bread and gave it to His disciples and said, Take eat; this is my body which is broken for you.*

This do (not something else), but do this, the simple, unleavened bread that is prepared, broken, blessed, and eaten, *“This do in remembrance of Me.”* After the same manner, He took the cup of wine when He had supped, saying; *“This cup is the new Covenant in My blood and this do. Eat this bread, and drink this cup, as oft as you eat it and drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

He keeps saying that. *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show the Lord’s death until He comes.”* Now, are you with me? Are you thinking? You will better understand the Table of the Lord, if you know something about the Passover. Our Lord had met together with His disciples to observe the Passover. On this very night our Lord said, *“No more Passover observance, from this point on, it will be the Lord’s Table.”*

He took bread. At the Passover they always had unleavened bread. He took this bread, this unleavened bread that reveals the purity of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no reason why the Lord’s Table should not be observed with unleavened bread. The bread is accessible and it is attainable.

He took this bread, this unleavened bread and He broke it. This was signifying the breaking of His body. This signified His suffering. He broke it, blessed it, and gave it to His disciples and said; *“Eat this bread.”* This bread is symbolic of and represents His body, which is broken for you, that suffered on the cross for you. The Lord said, *“Do this is remembrance of me.”*

Then, He took the cup of fermented wine, which also shows the purity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the purity of His life. Unleavened bread will not spoil; it has no yeast. Wine will not spoil; wine can sit around for days, months and years and will never spoil.

Our Lord was a perfect in His life. He had no sin in His blood, no sin in His mind, no sin in His heart, and no sin anywhere about Him. He was pure and perfect. He took that wine and He said, *“This is (symbolic, it represents) my blood which is shed for you. The New Testament (the New Covenant) of My blood which is shed for you; all of you drink it, and this do in remembrance of Me.”*

“As often as you eat that bread and drink that wine, (you show several things, particularly), you show My death.” You show His substitutionary death, His sacrificial death, His death as a sin offering and a Saviour. You show His death to you, a body broken for you, and His blood shed for you. You show it until He comes again.

What is the Passover? Do you see that the Passover and the Lord’s Table are so connected? The Passover leaves off and the Lord’s Table takes over. Christ our Lord met to eat the Passover with His disciples, and He instituted the Lord’s Table. No more do we observe the Passover, we partake of the Lord’s Table.

Paul said, *“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”* There are so many questions about the Lord’s Table. There are so many errors today. It is a simple feast and it is a simple memorial. There is no reason why anyone should be confused. There is no reason why there should be any questions raised.

Our Lord gave two simple elements, bread and wine. This shows that He was actually made flesh and dwelt among us. Bread is a very common, every day thing. Here we have it on the earth. Wine is a common every day thing.

You do not have to go to Timbuktu to get bread or wine; they are among you, about you and around you. *“This do,”* it is very simple, not this and do something else. There are no candles, there are no robes, no paraphernalia, no processional, no mumbo-jumbo, no religious ritual involved. All you have to do is bring bread and wine; *“This do in remembrance of Me.”*

What is the Passover? Well Israel, God’s nation, was in Egypt. They were in bondage and slavery. They had been there 400 years. God would deliver them from Egypt. He would deliver them with His mighty hand out of Egypt.

What is this saying? Israel and Egypt is a picture of us in sin, bondage and slavery of sin and under the curse of the Law. As God delivered Israel, because Israel could not deliver themselves, (nor can we deliver ourselves), they were in sin. They were in Egypt, we are in sin. They were in bondage, and we are in bondage to sin and the captivity of the Law. They could not deliver themselves.

God could deliver them. God could deliver them powerfully, supernaturally with a mighty hand, by His grace and by His power. Salvation is deliverance. Salvation is not just a profession, or a turning over of a new leaf, or joining a church; it is deliverance. It is a great and mighty and powerful deliverance of God. It is a miracle work of God

within. It is deliverance from the kingdom of darkness, to the Kingdom of God's dear Son, from Egypt to Canaan.

God was going to deliver them out of Egypt and He said to Moses; *"Tonight, I will pass through the land of Egypt."* I do not know where people get the idea of death angels. He did not say a death angel would pass through Egypt, He said; *"I will pass through the land of Egypt."*

He said, *"Every firstborn in every home will die, even the cattle on the hillside from Pharaoh's palace down to the prison."* The firstborn son in every home will die under the judgment, wrath and anger of a Holy God.

But, He told His people (Israel); *"Take every man a lamb, a lamb for a house. If the house is too small for a lamb, two households will go together. Take a lamb of the first year (it is not to be an old lamb, an old sickly lamb, an old dying lamb, but a young lamb of the prime of life) in the first year, a male."*

Also, that lamb was to be without spot or blemish. There was to be no sickness, no disease, and no mark at all. *"You are to take that lamb and keep it up in a pen for four days and observe it. Make sure that there is no flaw, nothing wrong with it; it is a perfect lamb."*

"Then, you are to kill that lamb in the evening and roast its body with fire and eat the body. Eat it with unleavened bread; eat it with bitter herbs; eat it with your shoes on your feet, eat it with your bags packed; we are leaving this place."

They were to take the blood and put it on the doorposts and the lintel. *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."* That is the Passover! *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."*

The Lord came through Egypt that night. He visited every home with judgment, wrath and death. Where the blood was found on the door, He passed over and spared the firstborn. *"The blood maketh atonement for the soul."*

The Lord told the children of Israel to observe that Passover Feast at this particular time of year, every year to commemorate the Lord's deliverance out of Egypt. They were to remember their deliverance through the Passover Lamb.

That Passover Lamb says something else; it says, God's Passover Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, would come and deliver all of His people, all of His sheep from all generations, from all of their sins. He is our Passover. He is our Passover who was sacrificed for us.

You see, like Israel was in bondage, slavery and inability down in Egypt, we are in captivity to sin. The Scripture says, "*The wages of sin is death.*" "*The soul that sinneth shall surely die.*" Sin, when it is finished, brings forth death, but Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. We have a Passover Lamb.

Let me show you, as we look back at Egypt and the Israelites slaying that Lamb that night by putting the blood on the door. Let us see how that represents the Lord Jesus Christ.

First of all: Israel was to take a lamb. Christ is our Lamb. He is called "*The Lamb of God*" throughout the Word. Do you remember in John 1:29 how John the Baptist pointed to Him and said, "*Behold, the Lamb of God.*" Isaiah said, "*He is led as a lamb to the slaughter, as a sheep before her shearers is dumb; so He opened not His mouth.*"

In The Book of Revelation, even John on the Isle of Patmos was writing about things to come. He said, "*I saw a Lamb as it had been slain in the midst of the throne. Christ is our Lamb sacrificed for us.*" So, we have picked a Lamb by God's grace and that Lamb is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then, Israel's lamb was to be without spot or blemish. So was our Lamb without spot or blemish. It pictures Christ. He is the God-Man. "*He knew no sin. He was tempted as we are in every point, yet without sin. He had no sin; He knew no sin, and He did no sin.*" He was perfect without spot or blemish.

Israel's lamb was to be a young lamb of the first year, in the prime of life. Our Lord was in the prime of life. He was not old; He was young. He was 33 years old when He went to that cross and died.

Israel's lamb was to be kept up for four days and observed. Our Lord lived on this earth 33 years and then was tested and tried in every point. He was tried by men, tried by demons, tried by the Archenemy himself, tried by God and always proved perfect, without spot or blemish. That is the reason the righteousness that He provided for us, is a perfect righteousness because He is perfect.

Israel's lamb was slain. Our Lamb was slain. Israel's lamb was roasted with fire; our Lamb was roasted with the fire of God's wrath on Calvary's cross.

Israel's lamb shed its blood. Our Lamb shed His blood. Our Lamb shed His blood for the remission of our sins. Israel by faith put that blood on that lintel and the two side posts. The reason is that God said, *"It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul. When I see the blood; I will pass over you."* By faith, we look to the blood of Jesus Christ.

I preached a message just recently from 1 Peter 1 verses 18 and 19. *"We know that we are redeemed, not with corruptible things such as silver and gold from our vain conversation received by tradition from our fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ."*

You see; *"We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin. His blood maketh atonement for our souls."* In Christ, we have the atonement, once and for all. *"By one offering He has perfected forever, them that are sanctified."*

His blood cleanseth us from all sin. His blood reconciles us to God. His blood has perfected us. His blood is applied in heaven. That is right; the Scripture says, *"He enters not into the holy place made with hands with the blood of others, but He entered into heaven itself with His own precious blood and there obtained eternal redemption for us."*

He opened for us a way into the holiest by His blood. He opened before us the very throne of grace, so that every believer who is under God through the blood of Christ (a King and a Priest), may offer spiritual sacrifices of praise and faith.

This then, is the Lord's Table. That is what our Lord is saying; the Passover is done, the Lamb is finished, God's Lamb is here, and the Lamb in the Old Testament has fulfilled what it was given to do and that is to point us to Christ. There are no more Passover sacrifices, no more Passover Feasts. Now, that is the Lord's Table."

He is our Lamb of sacrifice and suffering. He is our Lamb of sin offering and substitution. He is our Saviour, who enables God to be Just and Justifier. The pattern is fulfilled and the Lord Jesus has perfectly fulfilled it.

Listen to me; the Lord's Table is not a sacrament, it has no saving power. These elements have no saving power. The bread is just bread. The bread does not become the body of Christ; it represents the body of Christ.

The wine is just wine. You could drink a gallon of it, and it would only make you drunk. If it was the blood of Christ, it would not. You see, if that wine was changed into the

blood of Christ, it certainly would not cause a person to be drunk. It is just wine and that is all it is. It represents the blood of Christ.

The Lord's Table is a memory, a Memorial Feast; it is a memory of Christ who saves. He said, "*This do in remembrance of Me.*" Do you see what I am saying? The bread is just bread, but it represents the body of Christ. The wine is just wine; it represents the blood of Christ.

Faith is in the heart. The faith of the believer in the heart looks to Christ. The faith of the believer does not look to the bread. The bread will not do anything for you. Faith does not look to the wine to do anything for you; it is looking to Christ. It takes this bread and this wine remembering what Christ has done.

You see; the Lord's Table is not a sacrament and has no saving power. The Lord's Table is not a fellowship supper to show the unity of the church. I hear preachers and people saying, "Well; we haven't observed the Lord's Table in a long time, because we haven't been in unity with one another." They say that there is sin in the camp and this sort of thing.

The Lord's Table is not a fellowship supper for you folks to show your love for each other. The Lord's Table shows the union of believers with Christ. The Lord's Table is a matter between the individual believer and His God.

We do not stop baptizing people because the church is not in union, or in fellowship, or because someone has crossed ways. Baptism is an ordinance; it shows the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and our union with Him.

The Lord's Table shows the death of our Lord. He said, "*This is My body broken for you. This is My blood shed for you; this do in remembrance of Me.*" We do not do this in order to be saved, but in remembrance of Him. We do not do this in order to redeem our soul; we do it because our souls have been redeemed by the broken body and the shed blood of Christ.

The Lord's Table is not a ritual. The bread and the wine are common elements, which show "*The Lord was made flesh and dwelt among us.*" The unleavened bread shows His broken body, He was without sin. The wine shows His shed blood, the purity of His blood. The unleavened bread is broken as Christ's body was broken on the tree. Where does the wine come from? It is squeezed from the grape and then poured out. Our Lord's blood was taken from Him, He shed it.

You say, "Well; how often should we observe the Lord's Table?" There is no time given. The Bible says, "*As often as you do it; do it in remembrance of me.*"

There is the simplicity of it. As I said a moment ago, this is no ritual. We do not use candles and atmosphere, and that sort of thing. The Lord's Table is a very simple supper; it is a very simple Memorial Feast.

It is a feast and not a funeral. Our Lord, when He took the bread, He gave thanks. When He took the wine, He gave thanks and gave it to His disciples. When we take this bread, which is symbolic of our Lord's broken body, and this wine, which is symbolic of His shed blood, we give thanks to God. Thank God He died! This is not a funeral; this is a feast. This is a Memorial Feast.

Who is to come to the Lord's Table? Let me answer that this way; suppose I as a pastor and preacher of the Gospel, declare to my congregation that on a certain occasion we will observe the Lord's Table. Suppose I announce it for this Sunday evening, Wednesday night, or whatever.

My friends, our Lord instituted the ordinance Himself and it is mighty important. He instituted it Himself. It is a declaration of the Gospel of God's mercy and grace, which we believe and preach. This is a time of worship, and this is a time of fellowship with Christ. This is a time to come together with the Lord, rejoicing and praising Him with thanksgiving over His sacrifice.

We have the bread, which represents His broken body. We have the wine, which represents His shed blood. These elements are to be distributed to the people, as our Lord gave them to His disciples. He gave them to them. They did not work for them; He gave them to them.

Even so, He did not sell it to them. He says, "*Here is my body broken for you.*" He gave it to them. They took it. Now, shall we give it to all men indiscriminately? Shall we give it to all men and women without any hedges or reservations?

Paul gives the answer in 1 Corinthians 11, in two words and those two words are "*examine and discern.*" Who is to come to the Lord's Table? Let me show you in verse 26 of 1 Corinthians 11, it says; "*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord's death till He comes.*"

You are showing what He did for you. It is not in what you do for Him, but what He did for you. You are showing and you do show the Lord's death. You are showing faith in

what He did for you. You cannot remember what you do not know. You cannot show something that was done for you, if it has not been done.

You are declaring before men, God and yourself that your hope, trust, faith and confidence is in Christ, and not just Christ the Babe, and Christ the Healer, Christ the Preacher and Christ the Miracle Worker, but Christ the Crucified One. He died for me. You are saying, "My sins deserve death and He died for me."

Notice the next verse: "*Wherefore, whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily,*" or in an unworthily manner, or means that some may be drinking this cup without the understanding of it and the meaning of it, without faith in Him. Without true dedication to its meaning, many will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

A man who does not know who Christ is, what Christ did, why He did it, where He is now and does not believe on Christ as his Substitute, sin offering and Saviour, has no business eating the bread and drinking the wine. They have no business coming to the Lord's Table.

But, He said; "*Let a man examine himself.*" I do not examine you, and you do not examine me. The deacons and the elders do not examine and tell people who can come and who cannot. I don't know your heart. You don't know my heart. No one knows anybody else's heart. Examine yourself!

Are you a sinner? Do you know the judgment of God against sin? Do you see the Lord's grace and mercy in Christ? Do you believe that He died for sinners? Do you see His broken body and shed blood bearing your sins and suffering your death? Do you discern?

Watch this; "*He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation, not discerning the Lord's body.*" What does the word "*discern*" mean? It means to understand, to comprehend, to believe God and to believe His body, and to believe His blood.

Who is to come to the Lord's Table? It is very simple; have a man examine himself. Is the Lord your Redeemer? Are you saved by works, or by Christ? Are you saved by the church, or by Christ? Are you saved by the Law, or by Christ?

Well, how did Christ save you? He died for you. His body was broken; His blood was shed and He died for me. He died, and intercedes for me. Well, come to the Lord's Table; you understand and you comprehend and you discern.

This is the Lord's Table and it is very simple yet how profound.