

The Lord's Supper

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'm going to speak to you today on the subject: **“THE LORD'S SUPPER.”** The Lord's Supper is sometimes called; “Communion” or “The Lord's Table.” I'm choosing as a text a passage from the **22nd Chapter of Luke verses 19 and 20.**

The Master is speaking here to His disciples and it says; *“He took bread and gave thanks and brake it and gave it to 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 (or Covenant) in my blood which is shed for you.”*

Most people have a thousand misunderstandings about the Lord's Table. Others have a thousand questions. I am going to try, if the Spirit of God will be our teacher and give me the understanding and wisdom; I am going to try in this message to clear up some of the misunderstandings and try to answer the questions about the Lord's Supper.

We have to go back and start when Israel was in Egypt, when the nation of Israel was in bondage and captivity in the land of Egypt. They had been there for almost 400 years.

The Lord showed mercy to them and was pleased to deliver them from the hand of Pharaoh and from the slavery of Egypt. If you will remember, He sent several plagues upon the land of Egypt and every time, Pharaoh would halfway promise to let the people go, and he would change his mind. The Scripture says, *“He hardened his heart.”*

First of all: After God sent eight or nine plagues, the Lord came to Moses and said this; *“Moses, speak to the children of Israel. Have them take a lamb for each house. If the house is too small for a lamb and they cannot eat all the lamb between them then have a lamb for two houses. Have at least a lamb for every house.”*

Secondly: It is to be a lamb of the first year, in the prime of life and is to be a male lamb.

Thirdly: The lamb is to be put up (or pinned up) for four days from the tenth day to the fourteenth day. That lamb is to be observed because it is not to have one blemish or one spot. It is to be a lamb of the first year, a male lamb, and it is to be without blemish and without spot, without disease.

Fourthly: Then, on the fourteenth day of that given month, they were to kill the lamb in the evening. They were to roast the body with fire and eat all of it, leave none of it until the morning.

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Fifthly: They were to take the blood of the lamb and put it on the lintel and the two side posts of the house. The Lord said; *“I’ll pass through the land of Egypt at midnight and I will kill the firstborn in every home from Pharaoh’s Palace, even to the first born of the cattle in the field. Israel will be protected, for this is the Lord’s Passover. When I see the blood I will pass over you.”*

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Israel is in Egypt and God will deliver Israel out of the land of Egypt. He will do so through the blood. He said, *“For the Israelites to kill a lamb and put the blood on the doorposts and on the lintel. God said, “When I see the blood I will pass over you” and this is the Lord’s Passover.*

Like every sacrifice in the Old Testament and like every sin offering from the first one which Abel offered the blood on the altar; this is a picture of Jesus Christ the Lord who is our Passover.

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You will never understand the Lord's Table; you will never understand how and why it was instituted and what it means unless you can somehow lay hold upon what I am saying right now.

Every Old Testament sacrifice and every Old Testament sin offering, every Old Testament offering and priest and altar is a picture of Christ and is a promise of Christ to come; you must see that. The Old Testament is Christ and His sacrifice in prophecy, in promise, picture, type, and shadow.

The New Testament is Christ in person, fulfilling every prophecy, fulfilling every promise, and fulfilling every picture. Let me give you two or three examples:

Our Lord said, *"As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* This is a picture; Jonah is a picture of Christ in the earth; Christ said that Himself.

Then, there was a rock, which Moses spoke out of which water came to satisfy and quench the thirst of Israel. That Rock followed them. Paul wrote in the New Testament; *"That rock was Christ."* That rock, from which they received water, nourishment, and strength, is a picture of Christ. That rock was Christ.

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Then, our Lord said; *"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of Man be lifted up that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

So, you see; this lifting up of the brazen serpent was not just some hocus-pocus or some unique way that God had in delivering those bitten by the fiery serpent; it is a type of Christ, it is a picture of Christ.

Notice this: There are four times in the Scripture that is declared that *"Jesus Christ is a priest after the order of Melchisedek."*

Let's go back to this lamb. Here, at midnight, God said; "I'm coming to the land of Egypt in judgment, in wrath, and in destruction. *When I see the blood; I will pass over you.*"

Egypt is a picture of the world and it is a picture of sin. Israel was in captivity in Egypt, in bondage and in slavery in Egypt. Even so, spiritual Israel and those for whom Christ died, and those for whom God has purposed to save, are in bondage, slavery, and sin. They are in Egypt in darkness. They must be delivered and they must be saved.

So, God said to Israel; "*Take a lamb, a lamb that is a male, (which is Christ Jesus our Lord), of the first year, (in the full strength and health of life), a lamb without blemish or spot.*" This is our Lord's holiness and righteousness; "*He knew no sin, did no sin, and had no sin.*"

Our Lord was a man; "*Tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.*" That lamb was without blemish or spot, even as our Lord Jesus Christ is without sin.

Then, as the lamb was put up in a pen for four days and was watched and observed to see that there was no fault in Him, any blemish or spot, our Lord walked upon this earth for 33 ½ years and no fault was found in Him. Pilate said; "*I find no fault in Him.*" He knew no sin. He was without sin.

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As the lamb was slain, our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. "*He is the lamb slain, yea, before the foundation of the world.*" Actually, in His death on Calvary's cross, He was slain and His blood was shed for us. God said, "*When I see the blood; I will pass over you.*"

As unto the Law of the Old Testament, almost all things were purged with blood. "*Even so, without the shedding of blood, there is no remission.*" Peter wrote, "*For we know that we are not redeemed 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 as a lamb without spot or blemish.*"

Paul wrote in **Hebrews**; "*By one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.*" The key verse linking the Passover with the Lord's Table and with the death

of Christ is the one that Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 5**, when he said; *“Even so, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”*

Now then; notice this; it is very important; God commanded Israel to observe that Passover Feast every year; He said, *“You are to observe it every year on this certain day and the Passover is to be observed.”*

Moses wrote in **Exodus 12:26-27**; *“And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD’S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses.”*

Every year they would slay a lamb. Every year they would roast its body with fire and eat it. Every year they would take the blood and take the offering as a sacrifice. This was called *“The Passover.”*

When God visited Egypt in judgment, wrath, and condemnation, and smote the Egyptians and He delivered Israel. Christ delivered us through the Passover, through His sacrifice for us.

The Passover Feast continued from that day when Moses and Israel observed it in Egypt, until that day Jesus Christ came to this earth; they were still observing the Passover. They did it to fulfill all the Law.

You might say, “Why did the Lord Jesus Christ observe the Passover?” Well; He was our righteousness. The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled every type, every sacrifice, every Holy Day, and every Law, to bring in a perfect righteousness before God.

You see; *“He was made of a woman. He was made under the Law.”* Christ, when He came to this earth was born of a woman just like we are. He was born under the law of the home, under the law of the land and under the Levitical Law. He was born under the law of circumcision and the Sabbatical Law, the moral law, and under every law.

He had to fulfill all of them perfectly. He was circumcised when He was eight days old, (being a Jewish boy). He was taken to the Temple when He was a certain age to fulfill the sacrifice of purification, the sin offering for His mother.

He was brought to the Temple when He was twelve years old. He was baptized by John in the River Jordan. John said; “You have no business being baptized of me; I ought to be baptized of you.” Christ said; *“Suffer it to be so to fulfill all righteousness.”*

So, on this night, on the evening before His betrayal and before His crucifixion, (as was His custom), Our Lord gathered His disciples around the Table with Him to observe the Passover. You will notice in **Luke 22** that He said; *“Go and make ready a place where we can eat the Passover.”*

This Passover reaches all the way back to Egypt, all the way back to the time that God passed through Egypt and slew the first born. Moses had Israel slay a lamb and eat the roasted body and put the blood on the door; it goes all the way back there.

Every year, the children of Israel observed the Passover, the circumcision, and the Holy Days. They also observed the Feast of the Tabernacle, the Sabbath Day, and all of those things.

Christ did too; the Lord Jesus Christ was born in a Jewish home, under the Jewish law and the Levitical Law. He fulfilled every bit of the Law by obeying. When He obeyed it as our representative, He fulfilled it and it ceased as far as the believer is concerned.

This is what happened here; stay with me, and listen carefully. If you have questions they will be answered. Now that Christ was to be slain, (He is our Passover which was slain for us). He is our sacrifice for sin.

There is one more lamb to be offered after all these years, after all these Passover Feasts, after all of these sacrifices. There is one Lamb, God’s Lamb; God’s Lamb without spot or blemish.

God’s sacrifice on the eve of His sacrifice, on the eve of His offering, on the eve of His crucifixion, gathered around the table with His disciples. This is the last Passover. After this there will be no need of a Passover. There will be no need of a Sabbath Day. There will be no need of a Holy Day. There will be no need of these feasts because Christ is the fulfillment.

“He taketh away the first that he may establish the second; Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.” When God sees His blood, He doesn’t have to see any other sacrifice, any other offering because Christ is the sufficient sacrifice. When He sees His blood, *“He will pass over us.”*

There is no judgment. *“There is therefore now, no condemnation (no judgment), to them who are in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Our Lord fulfills the Passover picture in His

sacrifice. As He sat with His disciples around the Table observing the Last Passover before His crucifixion, He instituted and ordained the Lord's Table.

He gave to His disciples the Lord's Supper. He tells them this as He takes the bread; He holds the bread in His hand and He broke the bread and blessed it. He gave it to them and said; *"This is my body broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me."*

Then, He took the cup of wine and He blessed it. He gave it to His disciples and said; *"This is my blood, the blood of the New Testament, (the New Covenant), which is shed for you."*

There is no more lamb slain, no more lambs eaten, no more blood shed, no more sacrifices; this is it; *"This is my body broken, this is my blood shed. You eat the bread and drink the wine in remembrance of me."* Paul said; *"In as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death until He comes."*

The key to the observance of the Lord's Supper and the key to the understanding or comprehending of the Lord's Table is in these words; *"This do in remembrance of me."*

My friends; the Lord's Supper is not a sacrifice; Christ is our sacrifice. It is not a sacrifice but it is a memorial feast. These elements do not contain the body and blood of Jesus Christ; they represent the body and blood of Christ.

That's right; this is not a sacrament. The Lord's Supper has no saving power; Christ is the only Saviour. It has no more saving power than water in baptism has cleansing power. *"It is the blood that cleanseth us from all sin;"* it is not the water.

The water is a picture. Baptism is a picture of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It is identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. It is not actually the putting away of sin; it pictures the putting away of sin.

This bread, this element or symbol, represents Christ's body which was broken and does put away sin. This wine is symbolic; it represents the blood of Christ, which does put away sin.

The whole purpose is summed up in these words; *"This do in remembrance of me."* He did not say to do this in order to be saved. He didn't say do this in order to stay in fellowship. He didn't say to do this in order to keep the church together in one accord. He did not say to do this as superstition; He said, *"This do in remembrance of me."*

Then, the apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 11** instructed the church in the observance of the Lord's Table; he said; *"That which I have received of the Lord."* That is why we call it the Lord's Table is not the church's Table but the Lord's Table. The Lord instituted it; the Lord ordained it, the Lord gave it and the Lord will bless it.

That same night in which He was betrayed, the same night in which He was crucified, became our Passover. He is the fulfillment of the Passover. *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."* Christ is the fulfillment.

He took unleavened bread which is a picture of His perfect life. You see; leaven is a type of sin. All leaven was to be removed from the houses of Israel when they observed the Passover. All leavened bread was to be unleavened bread.

You can take unleavened bread and put it in your cabinet in your kitchen and it will stay there for months, and months, and months. It will never mold or decay. It is without leaven. Christ's body is without sin.

Therefore, to accurately observe the Lord's Table, unleavened bread is to be used; it pictures our Lord's perfect life. He broke that bread; He took that bread and broke it which shows His suffering, to show His body was broken, and to show His agony on that tree.

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He took that wine which also pictures His sinless life. Juice which is put up in a cabinet, will mold and it will spoil. Wine which is fermented will not spoil. You can keep it for months and even years. It represents the holy, spotless, life of Christ.

Another way that the wine represents the suffering of our Lord is that the grape has the juice in it. The grape is pulverized and squeezed. The grape has the very life mashed out of it and the juice comes out. That is Christ's blood being shed. His body was broken and His blood was shed. It is an accurate picture.

He took the bread and broke it; *"This is my body broken for you."* He took the wine that was poured from the grape, squeezed from the grape and mashed out of the grape. He gave it to them and said; *"This is my blood."*

“When you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord’s death until He comes.”
It is not a saving power or sacrament; it is a memorial. *“You show the Lord’s death until He comes.”*

I would like to show you how the Lord’s Table shows us things about the life and suffering of Christ.

First of all: It shows His incarnation; the bread represents His flesh and His body.

The wine represents His blood, flesh and blood. Our Lord became a man of flesh and blood. He actually came into this world in flesh and blood.

Secondly: The Lord’s Table shows His holiness as the unleavened bread and wine, without leaven and without evil.

Thirdly: It shows His suffering, for the bread was broken and the wine was poured out.

Fourthly: The Lord’s Table shows His substitution, *“My body broken for you and my blood was shed for you.”*

Fifthly: It shows our union with Christ because we need it.

That is what Israel did with the lamb; they roasted it. It shows our Lord’s fiery sufferings on the cross. They ate the lamb.

We take the bread and put it in our mouths and chew it up and swallow it. We drink the wine and this shows our union with Christ.

Let me ask you this question; who is to observe the Lord’s Table? There seems to be a lot of issues raised about that, questions raised, and a lot of conflict. I’m telling you this; The Lord’s Table is to be observed, first of all, by believers only, those who know Christ.

I ask you this question; how can you remember one whom you have never known?” Our Lord gave the bread to His disciples and the wine to His disciples. He said to them: *“This do in remembrance of me.”*

They knew Him; they loved Him, and they believed Him. They walked with Him and they could remember Him. One who has never loved Christ and has never known Christ, certainly, can never remember Christ.

Paul, in **1 Corinthians 11**, said this; *“Let a man examine himself and so let him eat.”* What shall we examine ourselves about? What is this examination concerning?

First of all: Do I know Christ, do I love Christ, and do I believe on Christ?

Secondly: Do I discern, which means to judge or to understand the Lord’s broken body? Do I know what this represents, what this is all about?

I have no business at the Lord’s Table if I don’t know what this is all about. For Paul said; *“He that eateth and drinketh unworthily (in an unworthy manner), eateth and drinketh damnation to himself not discerning the Lord’s broken body.”* They do not understand and they are not judging the Lord’s broken body.

So, who is to come to the Lord’s Table? Those who know Christ, those who choose to remember Christ, those which have something to remember about Christ and His sacrifice, come to the Lord’s Table, those who discern in a spiritual experience, who judge and understand what it is all about.

It is not just a ritual or a religious ceremony. It is not just something to make folks feel good. It is not just for atmosphere; it is a memorial supper, a feast which celebrates the sacrifice of our Lord. It is remembering Him *“who loved us and gave Himself for us.”*

Who observed the Passover? Israel, the people who were delivered, Israel who were brought out of Egypt observed the Passover; Israel, the people whom God delivered by His grace and power.

Who observes the Lord’s Table? It is spiritual Israel that does so, the believers who are delivered from sin. It is spiritual Israel which is delivered from darkness and evil, who are delivered from this present evil world by the blood of the Lord whom they remember, honor, and exalt. They observe the Lord’s Table.

Now then; how long are we to observe it? He said, *“Till I come.”* How often are we to observe it? There is no rule. You might think that we should observe it every Lord’s Day or two or three times a year. There is no rule; *“As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord’s death.”* For how long should we observe it; *“Until He comes?”*

If your children ask you the meaning of this service; *“What mean ye by this service?”* You are to say to them; *“It’s the Lord’s Table; it’s the Lord’s Supper.”* In other words, when Israel’s children asked, *“What mean ye by this Passover?”* You say; *“It’s the*

Lord's Passover who delivered us from Egypt when He smote the Egyptians and destroyed them.”

Our children ask us, “What is this Lord's Supper?” It is the supper of the Lord who delivered us from sin by the sacrifice of Himself. When He passes through in judgment we are delivered.

We show it. To whom do we show it? I show it to myself; it strengthens me. I show it to God; Oh God this is my hope.

I show it to fellow believers. I am with you and the one hope that we have in Christ Jesus. Then, I show it to the world. It is instruction in the way of life.