

Passages On The Lord's Supper

No. 85

Introduction. On Thursday, the day before Christ died on the cross, Matthew records these words.

17Now on the first *day* of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Where wilt thou that we make ready for thee to eat the passover? **18**And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Teacher saith, My time is at hand; I keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. **19**And the disciples did as Jesus appointed them; and they made ready the passover. **20**Now when even was come, he was sitting at meat with the twelve disciples; **21**and as they were eating [the Passover], he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. **22**And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began to say unto him every one, Is it I, Lord? **23**And he answered and said, He that dipped his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. **24**The Son of man goeth, even as it is written of him: but woe unto that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had not been born. **25**And Judas, who betrayed him, answered and said, Is it I, Rabbi? He saith unto him, Thou hast said. **26**And as they were eating [the Passover], Jesus took bread [this was the unleaven bread of the Passover feast], and blessed [Paul - gave thanks], and brake it; and he gave to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. **27**And he took a cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; [every one, Mk 14:23." they all drank of it.] **28**for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins. **29**But I say unto you, I shall not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. **30**And when they had sung a hymn, they went out unto the mount of Olives.

1. In the upper room Jesus here instituted the Lord's supper.
2. It is called the Lord's supper because Jesus instituted it and it is eaten in remembrance of Him.
3. He also told the disciples He would eat it with them "in my Father's kingdom."
4. Matthew, Mark & Luke all record the institution of the Lord's supper.

The next mention of the Lord's Supper, also known as "the breaking of bread" is in the book of Acts.

(Acts 1:6-8; 2:4, 32, 36; 2:42; 20:7)

1. We learn in Acts 20:7 the early Christians ate the Lord's supper (the breaking of bread) on the 1st day of the week.
2. Early church writing indicate this was done the first day of every week. There is no authority for partaking of it on other days or weddings or other special events. It is a feast for the Lord's day. assembly.

¹⁶The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we are all partake of the one bread.

1. A Communion - sharing
2. A symbol of Unity

The Next Chapter

¹⁷But in giving you this charge, I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better but for the worse.

1. This is one of the **saddest statements** ever made about a church.
2. May God never be able to say this about this church or any other church.
3. Our coming together should always be for the good.
4. Promote truth, love, peace and harmony - Not enmity, strife, division, disorder, discouragement

¹⁸For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and I partly believe it. ¹⁹For there must be also factions among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you. ²⁰When therefore ye assemble yourselves together, it is not possible to eat the Lord's supper: ²¹for in your eating each one taketh before *other* his own supper; and one is hungry, and another is drunken. ²²What, have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and put them to shame that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you? In this I praise you not.

Give a brief history of how the love feast was celebrated before the Lord's supper and how these Christians were abusing it.

Lord's Supper A Memorial

²³For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, This is my

body, which is for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying,

This cup is the new covenant in my blood: this do, as often as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me.

1. The Lord's supper is a time to remember. Bread & cup are not actual body and blood.
2. We should recall Jesus died in our place. (Jn. 1:29; Isa. 53:6).

Lord's Supper A Proclamation

²⁶For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come.

1. It is a sermon we all preach.
2. Jesus is not in the tomb. He is alive.
3. He is coming again (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11).

Unworthy Manner

²⁷Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

- Those living in rebellion to God should not partake. (Prov. 28:9).
1. Some Christians are very troubled by this scripture (1 Jn. 1:8). - Avoid partaking of the supper.
 2. The word "unworthy" does not mean we can be worthy of the death of Christ.
 3. It means we partake of the Lord's supper with the right attitude (prayerful, reverent, penitent) and with our minds on Christ.

Self-Examination

²⁸But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup.

1. Self-examination - not examination of the other fellow.
2. We do not have the right to examine the other fellow or to police the Lord's supper.
3. We should practice self-examination.
 - a. Thinking on the Cross
 - b. Confessing our sins
 - c. Rededicating Life
 - d. Prayer, meditation, read scripture or read a hymn.

Warning

²⁹For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body.

³⁰For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and not a few sleep. ³¹But if we discerned ourselves, we should not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

1. Paul says judgment had come upon them many of them because of their abuse of the Lord's supper. Some were weak, some sickly and some had fallen asleep. The Lord was chastening them that they might not be condemned with the world.
2. This warning should scare us when we are inclined to abuse the Lord's supper.

Paul Closes

³³Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, wait one for another. ³⁴If any man is hungry, let him eat at home; that your coming together be not unto judgment. And the rest will I set in order whensoever I come.

1. Paul is not condemning the love feast.
2. He is saying they should eat the love (fellowship) feast together, and then they would be in the proper frame of mind to partake of the Lord's supper.

Conclusion.

1. I pray this lesson has given us a better understanding of "the breaking of bread" (the Lord's supper). This is a feast or supper that is rich in meaning.
2. Let us be faithful to honor Christ in our daily lives and to honor Him each Sunday by partaking of the Lord's supper in the right manner.
3. As we bring this service to a close, we invite you to give your life to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Put your trust in the One who died for you and will come again one day for His followers. Be baptized as Jesus commanded, and honor and obey Him all your days. Come as we stand and sing.