

Communion Sharing

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12/5/11

Israel at Passover night, they not only placed the blood on the doorposts, but they ate the Lamb. God told them to. Jesus on that night of the Passover that we just read concerning, was there with His own disciples and He said, *"Take, eat."* And in both instances the picture is, both just a picture, of the true Passover that was about to happen on Calvary. Jesus in the Lord's supper, which we just read, dramatized what was yet to come. It was before it happened. If you consider this, it is an amazing fact that the Passover that happened thousands of years ago was something that was over with, but Jesus at the Lord's supper was actually dramatizing something that was yet to come. It had not yet happened, the cross had not yet happened. From the Passover in Egypt to the Lord's supper, that event was meant to be digested into us. *"Take, eat."* *"Eat the Lamb."* In both cases something digested into us. It is that self-giving one, that one who poured out His blood, that one that said, *"This is my body which is given."* That bread that was not representing His living body, but His given body. That blood was to be taken inside was not the blood that flowed in His veins, but the blood that was poured out for others.

This is supposed to be taken into us at communion. These still are yet symbols of the thing that we are supposed to be about. It is not a ritual, it is not meant to be a ritual, or a tradition. This might be, but true communion that this represents that Jesus was representing before true communion happened, before the true blood was poured out, before the true body was given, was not a ritual and was not to be just a tradition. It was a spirit of giving yourself by Christ, *"This is my body, this is my blood, take, drink, take eat, bring it into you."* At the Lord's supper He said, *"Do this in remembrance of me."* But at that moment they didn't have anything to remember because He hadn't done it yet. They would see the magnitude of this selflessness that was about to take place later. And they were to do this ingesting in remembrance of this kind of life, this kind of spirit, this kind of person.

Ingesting this Spirit and Life

Also another scripture, 1 Corinthians 10:16, *"The cup of blessing which we bless is it not the participation of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the participation of the body of Christ?"* It is not a ritual, it is a participation that we are supposed to be in. And another scripture in the gospel of John where Jesus was preparing them long in advance. *"Then Jesus said unto them, verily, verily I say unto you except you eat,"* And there He's not talking about a ritual, but an actual thing, not physically eating His flesh, of course many were offended at that, but He wasn't talking about a physical cannibalism, He's talking about an ingesting of this Spirit and life within to us. *"Except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of man drink His blood, you have no life."* So it was an eating unto life. And a particular kind of life. *"He who eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me and I in him."* Because we are putting Him in us, but again not like the manna that fell. And that's this discussion right here in John chapter six. They wanted God to give them manna from heaven, and Jesus didn't say "I am the manna", He said, "I am the true bread from God. I am that true bread of what the other was just a picture," And this true bread is broken. Jesus took the bread and He broke it and He gave it. This is broken and given, broken and given.

John 6:57 "As the living Father hath sent me and I live by the Father, so He that eateth me even He shall live by me." And there it is right there. He that eats this, not this communion, not the Lord's supper as we're doing right now, but we're like the disciples in that Passover, Lord's Supper experience,

they ate the Passover and then the verse we read in Luke says, *“And when supper being ended, He took bread.”* So here they pass through the Passover, they pass through the Lord's supper, and Jesus goes out and He becomes the true Passover. And He says, “After I have become that remember this and take this into you.” Take what into you? This self-less life, this self-giving one. In Luke the first scripture we read He says, *“This is my body given. You do this in remembrance of me.”* You give yourself. That bread is not like manna from heaven. We are all wanting to be manna from heaven given to God and to earth and come down here and feed the multitudes. This is like bread broken, bread bleeding, poured out. Communion, true communion, not the ritual, not the Passover ritual, is when Christ begins to be internalized, brought into us of which this is all just a picture. The broken and given one is eaten so “that he that eateth me even so he shall live by me. This me, this broken me, this given me.”

Prayer

Let's go ahead and partake of the bread and while you're partaking I'm going to pray. Father we thank you for this Jesus, this Jesus, we thank you that we can not only hear the story and retell the story as Israel did and then show it by symbols around a table. And that we don't just copy that but make it Christian and celebrate the story, but we go beyond Passover, we go beyond the Lord's supper before the cross and we eat of this life. We take it into our being and it forms us, it nurtures us, it brings us to the image that you want. Let the symbol of this bread that we just partake symbolize how we proceed in relationship to life and the cross. And become who we are, in Jesus name. You may take up the cup, Father we thank you for the life being in the blood, the life is in the blood you said. And then you said for us to drink in this, and you spent a whole chapter in the gospel of John describing not a ritual, but a way of life for all disciples who were invited. All disciples that were being brought into you, were invited to that supper. And we are invited not to the Lord's supper two thousand years ago, but the supper of which you spoke of in John six, to partake, to be participants as Paul put it. “He that eateth this bread,” is it not a participation of the body of Christ? Is not the drinking of this a participation in the life of this poured out one? Father bless this Lord's Supper session, but more importantly, after this, just like that after with the disciples, after this may we go from here and may we have communion, is it not the communion, the participation, we will have communion, a taking you in more and more whereby you increase and we decrease, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.