

“The Covenant Meal”

June 3, 2018

Luke 22:19-20

CORE: Every covenant-making ceremony (*i.e., the exchange of coats, exchange of weapons, exchange of names, the shedding & mingling of blood*) culminated in a meal—eating the same bread & drinking the same wine—telling the world they were one!

1. COVENANT MEALS IN THE BIBLE

- **Abraham & Sarah**—the LORD came in the form of a Man, accompanied by 2 angels; they shared a meal together (*Genesis 18:6-8*)
- **Israel- deliverance from Egypt**—centered in the Passover meal (*Ex. 12*)
- **Covenant at Mt. Sinai**—Moses & the 70 elders of Israel went up into the glory cloud on the mountain where they “*saw God, and they ate and drank (with God).*” (*Exodus 24:11*)
- **Psalm 23:5-6**—Sharing a meal of victory with the Shepherd, while the enemies watch in defeat. Anointed with “oil” of HS; covenant love & blessings overflow!

NOTE: The making & establishing of the old covenant centered around a meal.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF MEALS IN CULTURE

- In most cultures, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, etc. are celebrated with a meal.
- Work team—when completing job for Italian or Polish families—we shared a meal; the work was done & everyone was satisfied.
- Luke 15—the return of the “lost son” was celebrated with a meal. (The same for the lost sheep and the lost coin—gathered to rejoice together)

3. THE MEANING OF “REMEMBERING”

- In Western culture, “remembering” is a mental activity.
- But in Jewish culture, it meant more than “thinking about” the past:
 - Involves our spirit, mind, emotion, and body
 - Means to do the past event (*i.e., re-creating your wedding day*)
 - Focused on completely identifying with and participating in the powerful effects of the original event. (“*DO this in remembrance of Me*” *Luke 22:19*—not “Think about this”).
- “**Remembrance**” (Def.)—“The active participation in the power of a past event (by reenacting it)—so that this power now impacts the present.”
- More than a “flashback”—a “flood forward” of full impact of the event.

4. SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF THE COVENANT MEAL.

John 14:26- "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all things that I said to you." NOTE: Same word for "remembrance." A spiritual "re-experience."

Luke intentionally records two covenant meals with Jesus—one before & one after the Cross:

Luke 24:32,35- "They said to one another, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road...And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.'"

NOTE: The New Covenant Meal is an awesome mystery—a doorway into the world of the spirit. Believers of 1st Century referred to meal as "partaking of the body and blood of Yeshua." It was a great mystery that was embraced by faith. Centuries later, it became a theological issue to debate & divide over (*i.e., what happens and how it happens*).

5. THE MEANING OF "COMMUNION"

1 Corinthians 10:16- "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

- "Communion" (Def.)—"A participation in; a uniting together in partnership."
- In covenant—"He is in us, and we are in Him"
- In communion—by faith His covenant love becomes a reality

"This is My body, given for you!"

- With total abandon—voluntarily—by an act of His will
- With great joy & without regret (*Luke 22:15- "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you!"*)

"This is the new covenant in My blood"

- Completely paid for—I am fully invested in it
- Accomplished—final
- "Drink"—fully receive and share in My overcoming life! [*Lev. 17:11- "The life is in the blood"* (Receive the life of One who overcame sin, death, and all the power of the enemy!)]

NOTE: "*(Jesus) was made known to them in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35). The words- "made know to them"—are an intimate, personal connection—never used to describe academic or impersonal recollection.*