

## THREE TENSES THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Luke 22:7-18

- 7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.
- 8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat."
- 9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?"
- 10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.
- 11 "Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, 'Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'"
- 12 "Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."
- 13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.
- 14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.
- 15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;
- 16 "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
- 17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;
- 18 "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
- 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
- 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

INTRO: On the front of our communion table are found the words, "This do in remembrance of Me." Whenever we come to observe this ordinance, it should be a time of remembrance. Today I want us to focus our remembrance in three areas: one PAST—the Lord's death; one PRESENT—Communion with Christ now; and one FUTURE—Till He comes.

### I. PAST TENSE—SHOW THE LORD'S DEATH.

22:1 **Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.**

**7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.**

The feast of unleavened bread really included three feasts that by the time of Jesus, kind of got rolled into one. First was Passover. Then Passover rolled right into the actual feast of unleavened bread. That lasted 7 days. Then they wrapped up the whole thing with the feast of Firstfruits. All three of those put together came to be known as the feast of unleavened bread. But the key event was clearly the one that kicked it off. The key event was the Passover. The Passover was a time when every Jewish family remembered the

time when God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. This is the feast that Jesus was celebrating with the disciples. And they were doing exactly what God had commanded the Jews to do. They were remembering God's miraculous deliverance of Israel. They were engaged in a ceremony to remember the Lord's saving work on their behalf.

As Jesus and the disciples were there in the upper room eating their lamb, they were doing so in remembrance of that time. But Jesus was also showing them that this was their final Passover. As they moved from eating the flesh of the Passover lamb, He pointed them to Himself as the ultimate Passover lamb. As he did, He instituted the ordinance we still practice today.

In verse 19 as Jesus takes the bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and gives it to His disciples He said, **"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

Paul, commenting on this event in 1 Cor. 11:26 says, **"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."** Jesus was showing forth His death.

This is the ordinance we partake of in remembrance of Him. The ordinance you participate in every time you partake of the Lord's Supper. The ordinance you take in remembrance of His body that was broken for you. In remembrance of His blood that was shed for you. In remembrance of His blood that, when applied to the doorpost of your heart—will cause the death angel to pass over. In remembrance of His blood that will break the bonds of sin in your life and make you free forever. That is what we remember when we partake of the Lord's Supper.

When we come to the Lord's Table, our remembrance must be first on the Lord's death. At the Lord's table we call to mind the high cost of our Salvation. While it is free to us, it cost Christ dearly—His very body and life's blood.

## **II. PRESENT TENSE—COMMUNION WITH CHRIST NOW.**

**14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.**

**15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;**

**16 "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."**

Jesus said, **"With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;"** (v. 15). Jesus longed to have communion with His disciples. He wanted them to remember Him.

When Paul describes the meaning of the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 10:16 he writes, **"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?"** The word communion is an action word which means: "fellowship, participating in, sharing together, having in common." This observance of the Lord's Supper is not simply keeping a dead memory alive. It is reminding us that we have entered into the presence of One who lived, died, was raised from the dead by the power of God, and is alive forevermore. It reminds us that He is present with us here and now—at the table.

We are a fellowship of believers. When we sit at the Lord's table, it is as if we were present with Jesus during that final meal. Can you hear Jesus say those words to you that

He said to His disciples that night, "**With fervent desire I have desired to eat this ... with you.**"

Most definitely, He is with us.

### **III. FUTURE TENSE—TILL HE COMES.**

Twice in this passage Jesus points to the future:

16 "**for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**"

18 "**for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.**"

Jesus spoke of His coming kingdom. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are to remember the promise of His return. Revelation chapter 19 describes "**the marriage supper of the Lamb**" when Jesus reigns in His kingdom as King of kings and His bride is with Him:

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

Indeed, Jesus is coming again. And as Revelation 19:6-9 tells us, He is coming to establish His kingdom with His people; who will be rewarded upon His return. But chief among the rewards we might receive on that day is the reward of sharing in the blessing of the celebration surrounding our Lord's return with others who have accepted the invitation of God.

1 Cor. 11:26 says: "**For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**" You proclaim the Lord's death "**Till He Comes.**" Did three words ever tell more?

Why do we urgently remember? Because Jesus is coming back. And He is coming back soon. He has invited many to sit with Him in His kingdom at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Have you accepted His invitation? Are you sure you have accepted, by faith, the forgiveness available to you through Christ, and the eternal life only He can give?

If so, am I living my life in such a way as to be rewarded by my Lord upon His return? He has His reward for all those invited to the marriage supper. Are you ready to receive it? Are you urgently preparing your life every day for His return? Are you urgently purging your sin every day, ready for His return? Are you urgently partaking of His grace every day, walking with Jesus? And are you urgently looking for the promise of His return every day?