

THE HOLY SUPPER: THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

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Lesson: Luke 22

As we approach the Christmas season and prepare to celebrate the Advent or the coming of the Lord into the world, it is good for us to think and to remember why the Lord came into the world, that He came to save us. Also to remember how He saved us, and how He would continue to save each one of us.

Now the Lord created people to go to heaven, to be happy, to live near Him all their lives, in this world and in the next. But when people turned away from the Lord, when they closed the Lord out of their minds then the Lord's love hungered for them.

He wanted to draw near so that once again people might find happiness in loving the Lord. Also that's why He came on earth—to draw near to all of those whom he had created, because only when the Lord is near to us can we be happy, and only when we think of the Lord and open our minds to Him can He enter in and be close to us. Heaven is really a place where the angels are close to the Lord, and that closeness is called conjunction. Conjunction—*con* means “with” and *junction* means “joined with”—to be close to the Lord. And that's why the Writings say that heaven is a state of conjunction with the Lord.

So the Lord came into the world to draw near to people. He put on a body of flesh that could be seen, and within the flesh was blood carrying the life through the body the way it does with us, and people could see Him. Also as soon as they could see Him with these eyes then they could begin seeing Him with their spiritual eyes. And then they could feel His love, for the Lord wanted to feed people spiritually, to bring His truth in the light of which they might know Him, and to bring His love in the warmth of which they might be happy in a state of conjunction, or near to Him.

And so just before the Lord left His disciples, and after He had shown Himself and taught people in this world, the Lord did something very special. He established the Holy Supper. On the night before He left this world the Lord was gathered with His disciples and He felt a very strong love for them, and they felt His love, and He used that occasion to establish the Holy Supper. After they had finished the Passover Feast, the Lord took unleavened bread and He broke it, and He said, “Take, eat, this is My body; this do in remembrance of Me.” To remember. And then the Lord took the cup and poured wine into the cup and He passed the cup to all of the disciples, and He said, “This cup is the

new covenant in My blood which is shed for the remission of sins. Drink ye all from it.” And again He said, “This do in remembrance of Me.”

Do you see how important it was to remember the Lord? Why did He use bread—unleavened bread—and wine? He used two things—two elements, because two represents conjunction, joining together of the Lord and man. And before a person—before you or I—can be conjoined to the Lord in our minds we must receive the Lord’s goodness. That’s one thing. We must also receive His truth, through our eyes and our ears. When those two are joined, or conjoined in our minds, then we can be conjoined to the Lord. Do you see the importance of two elements?

The bread represents everything good—everything of charity—which the Lord alone builds up in us. He puts it there. We don’t really realize that He’s doing it. But if He puts it there, it’s absolutely good. There is nothing evil in it. Nothing selfish. We have selfishness in us, but the good that the Lord gives us, that He feeds us with, has no evil in it. That’s why the bread must be unleavened. It has no yeast, because yeast represents what is selfish. People have what is selfish in them, but not the Lord. And so everything the Lord builds in a person is good, from Him, from within. And that’s what taking the bread represents. The Lord broke the bread to represent that He is willing to give His good in any amount to anyone. And He said, “take, eat,” and they took, which represents that we must be willing to receive the Lord’s good. He will give us as much as we are willing to take from Him, so it is important—every little part of the Holy Supper should be remembered as to its importance.

The truth is made from grapes, from juice of grapes. But it has to ferment, and fermenting is like yeast, and that represents something of evil, stirring it up, something of falsity. When we take the truth in, it’s the Lord’s truth, but as soon as it enters our mind it is mixed with falsity. But through that temptation the Lord causes that truth to become pure, and then He conjoins it to His good. But it has to pass through that state of temptation. And that’s why we use wine which is the product of fermentation. But there is no yeast, or no process such as that in the bread, because that comes from the Lord alone, from within, and nothing of man is ever mingled with it.

Now when we make the bread for the Holy Supper it is important that we use four different ingredients. Why? Because the Lord builds up His good in us by using four different things that are all His. First of all, the Lord gives us the truth out of His Word, when we read the truth. And at first the truth is cold, when it enters. And that is represented by the water that goes into the making of the Holy Supper bread. Cold water is used. The people who make the bread for the Holy Supper use ice water, because cold water represents truth that is firm, truth that is obeyed. Obedience to truth is most important, and that’s why cold water is used. That’s the way it begins—the good in us—by obeying the Lord’s truth, taking it into the mind.

But then as we try to live that truth, the Lord's love begins to be mixed with it, and we begin to love that truth. We have an affection for it, and the affection that the Lord builds up by means of the truth is represented by salt. Salt brings out the flavor of food. It mixes oil and water. And so affection from the Lord, through the angels, that we feel for the truth that we are obeying, is a very important part of the building up of that good in us.

The truth then becomes very gentle. The truth is said to be celestial truth, or truth from good, or truth that we have begun to live. And it's a new kind of truth. It's not the way it was when it first entered. And that new truth, that perception, is represented by flour. That gives the body to the bread. And then the most important of all, of course, is the Lord's own love, olive oil. Olive oil. See how gold it is in color—and there's a little tinge of green to it. That particularly represents the Lord's love as it is present through His Divine Human, the natural which He put on and glorified. So always remember the Lord's love, and when the Lord's love is added then everything good that has entered our mind becomes truly good. It becomes the bread of life, and out of these ingredients then, we have the Holy Supper bread, the unleavened bread which represents everything good that is from the Lord in a person.

The Holy Supper is celebrated so that people may draw near to the Lord and kneel down and remember that the Lord put on a body of flesh and blood so that He could draw near to us, and so that He could teach us His goodness and His truth, and give us spiritual food that we might build spiritual bodies and dwell in heaven near to Him, forever. That is why the Holy Supper is the most holy act of worship, and anyone who is an adult who feels the need of the Lord's help is worthy to approach and to receive the bread of life which comes down from heaven, and which gives life unto the world. *Amen.*