

REVIVE CHURCH-PRESENCE CENTERED 5 BREAD OF HIS PRESENCE

We have been discussing what it looks like to live as a priest, (worshipper) as our primary identity. I want to spend some time today discussing communion, the body and blood of Jesus. We truly have bread/provision in Christ that the world knows nothing about. Communion is the Holy meal that invites us to experience the real presence of Jesus through active remembrance and Thanksgiving.

1 Corinthians 10:16 (NKJV) The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion (fellowship, intimacy) of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

Transformation comes from having a beholding lifestyle in fellowship with Jesus. Beholding is much more than a glance. It is essential that we turn in, wait upon Him, open ourselves to the healer, the lover of our soul. Communion is a place to encounter the living God and take time to meditate on true beauty found only in Christ.

Many want to snack with/on Jesus but He wants to feed you a meal. He knocks upon the door of our heart to sup with us. *Revelation 3:20 (NKJV) "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

Dine/Sup (strongs) the main meal of the day.

John 6 Context

- **Vs. 1-14**-Jesus feeds the multitude (5000 men) with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. There were 12 baskets left over.
- In **vs. 22** the people begin looking for Jesus, seeking Him out. They were looking for Him near the place where He had fed them the last meal.

John 6:26-35 *Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." 28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." 30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " 32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they*

said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” 35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst

Jesus uses something natural, bread, to awaken the spiritual yet the people keep going back to bread. The seekers felt the need to remind Jesus about Moses and their fathers. Our Fathers ate the manna in the dessert (daily provision for 40 years). They were looking back at what God did but Jesus the Son of God was bringing a greater revelation in Himself! Stop looking for temporary bread and open your heart to true spiritual bread.

John 6:47-51 *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”*

- Following these verses Jesus preaches a very difficult sermon for all of His disciples to grasp. What He says **empties the synagogue** where He was teaching.

53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

John 6:66-69 (NKJV) From that [time] many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 “Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

The 12 who stayed back with Jesus did not have understanding yet but they would. They would pursue Jesus even when they did not have full understanding because they believed He was the Son of God. As we discuss what mystery looks like, this is exactly what I am talking about. Everyone else left when there wasn't understanding, but the true disciples realize because of who he is they would continue to trust and grow because Jesus has the words of eternal life.

Jesus would introduce the Lord's supper at Passover just before His death. The breaking of bread and participation in the body and blood of the Lord would become a regular way of remembering His sacrifice and realizing His presence **when He was gone.**

Each time a new believer would place their faith in Jesus Christ they would participate with those who shared this meal with Christ in the flesh. *The understanding of Christ came not only by studying scripture but entering into fellowship with the Holy One, through communion. The cup and the bread, the blood and the body, death and resurrection, healing, forgiveness and wholeness were rediscovered and experienced as they dined upon Christ.*

When we look backwards into Exodus 16 at the we see the Provision of Manna that was given to the Israelites daily. For 40 years Israel was miraculously provided for. Manna was a foreshadow (Natural example) of the bread of life that would sustain us (spiritually) forever.

God told the Israelites

- **Gather daily and only enough for the day**, except the sabbath you are to gather a double portion We need fresh provision daily.
- **Yesterdays manna will not be good tomorrow**
- God provides, we receive
- The miraculous provision of manna was pointing to a future reality when all who would place their faith in Jesus would be supernaturally sustained by the substance of Christ
- **Moving forward into the tabernacle of Moses and then the temple built by Solomon we get another foreshadow of Jesus through bread. In the tabernacle/temple there was the bread of presence also called the shewbread. It is described in Leviticus 24.**
- **This bread of the Presence was baked in 12 loaves**, arranged in two piles of six loaves each on a table of pure gold, covered with frankincense, and served as a memorial (reminder) food offering to the Lord.
- The bread **could only be eaten by the priests** (Aaron and his sons) and would be replenished each week, allowing the priests to eat fresh bread in the holy place. It was unlawful for someone who wasn't a priest to participate in this bread.
- The bread was placed on the table in the tabernacle and provides a wonderful picture of Jesus, the **Bread of Life**. Jesus is holy before God, He provides true sustenance, and He is always present. **“Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry’” (John 6:35)**
- the Bread of Presence foreshadows the Lord's Supper, where believers partake of the bread and wine in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. In this sacrament, Christians recognize Jesus as the true Bread from Heaven, who offers eternal life to all who believe.

The manna, the Bread of the presence and the bread that fed the 5000 were all types and shadows of Jesus Himself.

When Jesus was in His resurrected body and not recognized by His disciples we have this incredible passage in Luke 24.

Luke 24:30-31,35 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. *Luke 24:35* And they told about the things [that had happened] on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

There eyes were open at the breaking of bread. The broken bread is His broken body. There is something that happens when we set our eyes and behold the sacrifice of Jesus.

In the early church, communion wasn't primarily talked about as a symbol or a memorial act the way we often frame it today. It was most often described as receiving the Mystery

Mystery" didn't mean "unclear" In the ancient Christian sense, mystery meant a divine reality revealed by God but not exhausted by explanation. Something known by participation, not by analysis.

So when believers approached the Eucharist, they weren't trying to "figure it out." They were entering into what God was doing.

To receive communion was:

- To participate in Christ
- To share in His death and resurrection
- To be united to what cannot be reduced to explanation

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation (koinonia) in the blood of Christ?" (1 Cor 10:16)

Matthew 26:26-29 (NKJV) 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke [it,] and gave [it] to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 "But I say to

you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Jesus took hold of two very common items and declared that they had new meaning. He took something ordinary and made it miraculous provision, *He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and said "Take, eat; this is My body", He took the cup and gave thanks (expressed gratitude) saying drink from it, for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.* His words changed what was ordinary into something miraculous.

1 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV) for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Home group questions

- Discuss-Jesus desire is to dine with us but all too often we are satisfied with a snack.
- How has Holy Spirit been speaking to you through the sacrament of communion?
- Discuss the early church's understanding of communion as Receiving the mystery. **a divine reality revealed by God but not exhausted by explanation.** Something known by participation, not by analysis.
- Discuss the significance of Jesus statement "**I Am the bread of life** (John 6:35)". Are you able to see Jesus in the provision of manna, the provision of the bread of presence that only the priests could partake of and the bread in the feeding of the 5000?
- Do you have faith that Jesus will make Himself known in the breaking of bread (Luke 24:35).

Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart and receive communion together