

An Invitation to Dine with the King

I. The Invitation to Dine in Remembrance of Jesus' Sacrifice

How will you respond?

A. Communion Defined

1. In Unger's Bible Dictionary communion is called The Lord's Supper. Jesus instituted the new covenant in the Lord's Supper when He had communion with His disciples the night that He was betrayed. This was when Jesus chose to transform the meaning of the cup and the bread. Now receiving the cup is our personal participation in the blood of Christ, the breaking of bread is participation in His body. *Matt 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:17-19, John 13:26*
2. After Jesus ascended, the Lord's Supper was a meal belonging to the Lord that took place in houses with an ordinary meal. There wasn't a priestly consecration or distribution of the bread and wine to make it valid. Each person would bless their cup and bread as a personal act of worship in remembering the sacrifice of Jesus. *1 Corinthians 10:16-17 & 11:23-26, Acts 2:46*
3. In Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary communion is defined as: loving entirely; agreement of mind, will and affections; singleness of heart; intimacy; a close familiarity or fellowship; and harmony

B. We were created for fellowship with God. He is seeking worshipers who will worship Him in Spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24) When we worship God we abide in Him, we know Him intimately and experience all that He is. To worship in truth is to have a pure heart free of anything that displeases Him. Communion is an invitation to trust the Lord and lean on His love and wisdom as we come in faith. (Proverbs 3:5) Jesus holds a place for us at The Father's Table. This means that we are welcome into His presence at any time. He sets a table for us in the middle of our messes, our battles, our storms and our joyful celebrations.

Revelation 3:20 Amplified Bible "Behold, I stand at the door [of the church] and continually knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him (restore him), and he with Me."

Matthew 11:26-30 (Jesus said) "*All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"

John 15:9 (Jesus said) "*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*"

Matthew 6:6 (Jesus said) "*But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*"

C. We are children of the light. Light dispels the darkness. In Bill Johnson's book "*Hosting the Presence*" he says, "What power of darkness exists that could block the fellowship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? But when we live with a primary awareness of the enemy and his plans, we instinctively live in reaction to darkness. Again, if I do, then the enemy has had a role influencing my agenda. And he isn't worthy. My life must be lived in response to what the Father is doing. That is the life that Jesus

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modeled for us. Heaven is filled with perfect confidence and peace. We always reflect the nature of the world we are most aware of.”

D. How do we become more aware of the Kingdom of God? How do we enter into the presence of the One True Living God? In humility, thanksgiving, repentance and worship. We only know the Father’s heart because Jesus reveals Him to us. We receive the Father’s love. We arrive hungry and thirsty and we are filled with everything we need. We are transformed and restored!

Ask the Lord what needs to be removed for you to experience more intimacy with God; Intimacy is where you receive God’s love, hear His voice and transformation happens.

Psalms 139:23-24 TPT “God, I invite your searching gaze into my heart. Examine me through and through; find out everything that may be hidden within me. Put me to the test and sift through all my anxious cares. See if there is any path of pain I’m walking on, and lead me back to your glorious, everlasting way— the path that brings me back to you.”

Psalms 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”

E. The last thing Jesus desired before His time had come to go to the cross was to have a meal with His disciples. In Luke’s account he records that Jesus said “with fervent desire.” He desired to share the Passover meal.

How do we respond to the invitation? How close are we willing to get to Jesus? Are we known as a disciple whom Jesus loves?

In Matthew’s account he says that Jesus blessed the bread and broke it. Jesus said to do this in remembrance of Him. So often we focus on “the remembrance” but tonight we will see that there is so much more for us in the celebration of communion. Feasting *on* the Word of God *with* the Word of God is life; God reveals His sovereignty, truth, new life. The Word of God is living and active and the presence of God brings Shalom to us.

Luke 22:15, 19-20 Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer”.... And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me... This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’

Matthew 26:26-28 (Jesus Institutes the Lord’s Supper) 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. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

II. The Invitation to Dine with Jesus Today

A. Father, Son and Holy Spirit don’t become old or outdated. God is always relevant and current. He is omnipotent and omnipresent. In addition to remembering Jesus’ sacrifice, the Lord’s Table is also here for us to have new experiences with the Living God. He is inviting us to dine with Him, commune with Him and fellowship with Him. Only new encounters with God will cause spiritual growth and transform our lives.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

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B. Drinking communion wine, the cup of blessing, is an act reminding us that we are in a covenant relationship with God.

A reminder of the 1st great commandment ***“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deut 6:5 & Matt 22:37-40*** Which means do not follow any other gods.

Jesus’ blood is of the new covenant ***“Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” Matt 26:27-28***

Eating the bread is a reminder that we are one in the body of Christ; in unity, not allowing division. We are to love one another. Fellowship is more important than theology.

C. Do you remember how you felt when you first believed? When the eyes of your heart were opened and you decided to follow Jesus? Clarity came; you were set free; you were so thankful because you became a new creation and you realized how desperately you needed Jesus. Let’s return to our “First Love” often, knowing that He desires for us to daily discover the awe and wonder of who He is. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit long to be with each other AND with us. How will we respond?

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 Amp Bible “but whenever a person turns [in repentance and faith] to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (true freedom). And we all, with unveiled face, continually seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.”

Luke 24:28-32 “Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. 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. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

D. Worship prepares our heart for intimacy with God. We are created to worship God. We have the freedom to worship whatever we choose to. Whatever we value most highly is what we worship and spending time with God creates intimacy with God. The path to communion is to come to the “Table” with a thankful heart. When we worship God we become like Him and His life flows out of us. We reflect His attributes and express His holiness. As we ascend in worship His tangible presence comes, The Shekinah Glory. (God’s abiding presence) We discover new ways to worship God and experience more of Him.

Psalms 34:8 NKJV “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; (experience Him) Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”

Hebrew word for taste is **ta’am** (Strong’s concordance #2938) To taste, eat, discern, perceive, The capacity to choose and delight in good things.

E. Hebrew word: “Selah” Wait, rest, hear and receive from God, pause, reflect, musical notation for quiet voice and instrument

F. Hebrew word: “Towdah” describes the unconditional love of God for His children. His agape love. The very essence of God. It also describes Jesus’ love for His Father. This is our identity and relationship with the Living God. Doesn’t that make you love Him and worship Him with a thankful heart?

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G. Hebrew word: “Yadah” is the highest level of intimacy and love. As we ascend in worship we discover God’s heart of love, receive revelation, new life and healing, rest, and new songs. Spending more time with the King allows us to know Him through experience. Discover how to create space for the Lord every day. Meet with God every day... worship, pray, read & meditate on the Word, hear His voice, and write down what He says to you. (Hab 2:1-2)

H. As we dine (commune) on spiritual food with Jesus we experience resurrection life and power. When Jesus died the heavens were opened. The veil was torn. After Jesus ascended to heaven the Holy Spirit came and the anointing of the Holy Spirit is at the Lord’s Table. Every time we eat and drink of the presence of Jesus we are raised up from our circumstances and infirmities.

We abide in Him and He abides in us and we receive the very life and divine nature of God. We receive grace, Holy Spirit power, God’s joy and peace. Abiding in Christ is keeping our attention on the promises of God and living in His marvelous light. When we feel lost in darkness, worship immediately transports us into the light.

In the book of Acts and 1Corinthians we read that the early church approached the Lord’s Table with great celebratory joy! One of the most important aspects of Communion is when we remember Jesus’ death. Can we remember with strong emotions of gratitude coupled with joy? Yes! There was a victory at the cross! Jesus is alive! We are forgiven, we have eternal life because we are reconciled to our Heavenly Father, Jesus conquered sin, death and satan.

I. See: “The Table - Where I Fight My Battles” from the book *“The Miracle Table Rediscovering the Power of Communion”* by Andrew Murray.

III. The Invitation to Look Forward to the Great Wedding Banquet

At The Lord’s Table we prepare for the return of the King of Kings.

A. The Lord’s Table has abundant blessings. The table is always full. For now we continue to come to The Lord’s Table hungry and thirsty. We are full but not satisfied. We trust that “He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.” (Psalm 107:9)

B. Our hunger grows the longer we walk with Jesus. When you have eaten of the hidden manna and drink from the new wine of His covenant you know that only the King’s table will satisfy your hunger, nourish you and give you abundant life and joy.

IV. Conclusion

A. Taking the bread and the juice with reverence and remembrance is important. Communion is also about encountering Jesus here and now. We also anticipate and prepare for His return. Each time we celebrate communion we get a preview taste of the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb and His Bride when we see Jesus face to face and dine with Him for eternity. (See 2 Cor. 13:14)

B. Let’s bring every fear, sickness, enemy and sin and place them at the Lord’s Table. Let God arise on our behalf! Lord, we agree with Your decree (Your Holy Word) that silences every enemy and empowers us with Your Holy Spirit with the authority and power that we need to enforce Your victory.”

C. 2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”

D. Book Recommendations: “The Miracle Table” by Andrew Murray; “Secrets of the Secret Place” by Bob Sorge; “Hosting the Presence” by Bill Johnson; “The Power of Communion” by Beni Johnson