

The Feast to Eat

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 4/11/2017

Today is the First Day of Unleavened Bread and we will begin with the Holy Day Offering.

To **eat** or **not to eat** – that is the question? During this Feast of Unleavened Bread we speak of **two kinds** of bread, leavened and unleavened. Which kind of bread appears most in the Scriptures? Here's the question: Are we told, "Do not eat leavened bread," or, are we told, "eat unleavened bread?"

"I got up first thing this morning and went into the kitchen to make a pot of coffee... and I saw a little black spot on – what should have been a spotless counter. I got my magnifying glass out to take a closer look – and to see what it might be. And there on his back was a little black ant - with his six little legs pointing straight up. Poor little thing had starved to death – because he couldn't find a **bread crumb** in the house."

Now, I'm sure that you can all relate to that – because we've all been cleaning and **putting out leavening** – coming up to this day – the First Day of Unleavened Bread. We put out leavening: I went back and looked at how many times I've spoken on that very subject – putting out sin – with titles like: "Come Out of the World" – "Journey from Sin" – "Deceitfulness of Sin" – "Come out of Sin."

After all, not only are we not to eat leavened, puffy bread, the Scripture says, "neither shall there be **seen** any leaven with thee in all thy quarters.

There is to be no leavening in our houses. We get rid of leaven – lock, stock and barrel.

When I'm asked, "What is the Biblical meaning of Unleavened Bread?" Almost without thinking I would say, "Leaven is a **symbol of sin**, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures **putting sin out** of our lives." Or, I would say, "These days picture our **coming out of sin**, just as Israel came out of Egypt."

Exodus 12:19 Seven days shall there be **no leaven** found in your houses: for whosoever eats that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

Exodus 12:20 Ye shall **eat nothing leavened**; in all your habitations shall ye **eat unleavened** bread.

I want you to notice that God has not called these Feast Days, "The Feast of **No Leavened Bread**." No, He has called them, **The Feast of Unleavened Bread**."

We will see today that God's emphasis **is** on the **eating** of unleavened bread – even more so than the removal of the leavened bread. The lack of emphasis on **removing leavening** products does not mean that avoiding leavening is unimportant, No!, but it does indicate that God is emphasizing the eating of unleavened Bread.

Exodus 23:15 Thou shall keep the feast of unleavened bread: (**you shall eat** unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou came out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me **empty**:)

"None shall appear before me **empty**," what does that mean?

When a grown child goes to visit his parents, there comes a time of maturity when the grown child realizes that he should show deference, regard and respect to his parents who brought him into the world and raised him. When he goes to visit his parents home for a meal, he should not just barge in like it's still his house... **empty** handed. It is proper that he should bring a little something – even if it is only a bowl of asparagus with cheddar cheese and sliced almonds on it.

We are appearing on this Holy Day before our God for a spiritual meal – we should show Him reverence, and we should not appear before Him **empty**.

We will now take up the offering: I love the piano... The Offertory Music piece I've selected for today is: Ballad pour Adeline

End: Holy Day Offering

The Feast to Eat (Continued)

Let's look at the **emphasis** the Scriptures give us about eating Unleavened Bread. No doubt, leavening is symbolic of sin, and we are required to completely avoid leavening during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As Christians we strive against sin and remove it whenever we find it in our lives. God tells us we are to **remember**.

Exodus 12:14 And this day shall be unto you for a **memorial**; and ye shall keep it a Feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a memorial, an appointed time, of God's **deliverance** from Egyptian bondage. That is why it is a Holy Convocation.

Exodus 12:17 And ye shall observe the [first occurrence in the Bible] **Feast of unleavened bread**; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.

"This selfsame day" ... we read all about this when we were discussing the Night to be much Observed.

God speaks of **putting out** the old leaven before we come to this spring Feast, but why does God put the **emphasis** on eating **unleavened** bread.

A quick search of the Scriptures reveals that the word for "leaven" appears only (37) thirty-seven times... while the word for "unleavened" occurs (61) sixty-one times in the Bible. God does this for emphasis. He speaks more about unleavened bread than He does about leavened bread. Leaven bread contains yeast which causes it to puff up. Yeast and leaven are a **type of sin** – just as **oil** is a type of God's Holy Spirit.

In God's Church over the years there was a great **emphasis** put on thoroughly ridding our homes of all leavening products – and rightly so. Many sermons were given on which products contained leavening.

Thankfully, we also received adequate sermons that went on to the **spiritual meaning** of – putting sin out of our lives. But we are told by God, not only to put the leavening out, but to **eat** the unleavened bread. The Unleavened Bread is a **picture of Jesus Christ**.

1Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Those weak and carnal Corinthians were **unleavened** – sinless – because the righteousness of Christ had been **imputed** to them because of Christ's sacrifice.

1Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a memorial, an appointed time, of God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. That is a picture of our deliverance from bondage to sin as well.

Exodus 13:6 Seven days thou **shall eat unleavened** bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the Lord.

That is the First and last Day of Unleavened Bread.

Exodus 13:7 Unleavened bread **shall be eaten** seven days; and there shall no leavened bread **be seen** with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

Exodus 13:8 And thou shall show thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.

Exodus 13:9 And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the **Lord brought thee out of Egypt.**

Exodus 13:10 Thou shall therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

There is a very important concept: The **Lord brought thee out of Egypt.**

Both this verse and Exodus 23:15, as we saw in the Offertory, speak of coming out of Egypt. And it was God who was truly responsible for bringing Israel out of that sinful nation. The Israelites literally "came out from Egypt"—they walked—but they did not cause themselves to leave it.

God made it possible for them to walk away from slavery when He destroyed their captors, and then God Himself led them out of Egypt.

Exodus 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

We should never forget **by whose hand** that deliverance occurred. Israel "came out from Egypt" **only** because of God's intervention. Sure, they had instructions from Moses to follow, and they had to make the effort to walk, but it was not by their efforts that they were delivered. As Exodus 12:51 reads, "And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the **Lord brought the children of Israel** out of the land of Egypt . . ."

Israel could never have escaped Egypt on their own – God had to show them the way. It is the same with us – we did not discover God's Truth on our own. We did not **work up** repentance on our own. We did not have the wisdom or strength to repent on our own.

No, God had to call us and **grant** us repentance. Only God is able to **give** repentance – it is a gift of God. A few examples from God's word:

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Acts 5:31 Him has God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to **give repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, which God has given to them that obey Him.

Romans 2:4 says ...the goodness of God **leads** you to repentance?

Acts 11:18 says ... God also **granted** the Gentiles repentance unto life.

There is a most important definition that we saw back in 1Corinthians 5:7-8 – where it says that Jesus Christ is the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and truth. That is why it is so important to keep eating Unleavened Bread throughout these days.

Brethren, you know this story very well – it occurs just before the 3rd Passover during Christ's public ministry.

John 6:4 And the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father gives you the **true bread** from heaven.

Pick up on that – Jesus is the **true bread** from heaven.

If we are wise, we should ask ourselves – how do I truly partake of the **true bread** from heaven.

The unleavened bread we partake of this week **SYMBOLIZES** our need to partake of the true bread of sincerity and truth – that is Jesus.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and gives life unto the world.

John 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that **comes to me** shall never hunger; and he that **believeth on me** shall never thirst.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 6:48 I am that bread of life.

John 6:49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

John 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

John 6:54 Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:55 For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

John 6:56 He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, **dwells** in me, and I in him.

There we go brethren! We partook of the symbols of Jesus body and blood the night before last – NOW, how do we have Jesus dwell in us? That little piece of unleavened bread that we ate the other night is all digested by now – but Jesus wishes to **dwell** in us forever...

How does that take place? How do we dwell in Jesus, and everything He represents and stands for...? And then, How does He well in us? Where do we see the evidence of that?

John 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eats me, even he shall **live by me**.

There is the answer! We **live by Jesus Christ** – just as He lived.

John 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eats of **this bread** [Jesus Christ] shall **live forever**.

This passage reveals some of the astounding things that have been made available to us. This speaks of eternal life, of being raised up, of abiding in Christ and having Him abide in us, of living because of Him, and living forever.

What Jesus offers us here is beyond comparison, but it all hinges on our **eating and drinking** His body and blood. This concept of eating Jesus Christ, or putting on Christ, is carried forth from Passover – where we first partake of the small piece of unleavened bread, – THROUGH the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

Jesus and the Father do not desire to dwell in our clean **homes** – they desire to dwell in us.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come** unto him, and **make our abode** with him.

Have we cleaned our heart and mind as well as we cleaned our house? Which do we spend more effort on? The house or the heart?

Unleavened Bread pictures... “Sin out – God in.” Have you thought about the concept of making ourselves - a home for God? Where does God live? Where does He abide? Far away – on a High throne? Well, yes – but that is not all. Have you thought about the concept of making “yourself” a home for God? Let’s look into the Scriptures - where God makes known how things really work. How they are. The Bible expresses the Reality of life.

1Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

God lives in us! How can that be?

2Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, **I will dwell in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

As we read some of these verses – notice the two aspects of **eating** and **not eating** that God gives us.

Exodus 12:18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, **ye shall eat unleavened** bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

That is eight days. People get all hung up on that verse. It is a summation of both Passover, and then separately the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

Leviticus 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: **seven days – ye must eat** unleavened bread.

In all of God's instructions for this Feast, there are more references to **eating** unleavened bread than to putting out or avoiding leavening. Even the name of the Feast gives us an obvious clue to what God intends the focus to be: eating unleavened bread, rather than avoiding leavening.

Exodus 34:18 The feast of unleavened bread shall thou keep. Seven days **thou shall eat** unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the appointed time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou came out from Egypt.

The focus of this Feast, then, must remain on **God's activity** in our lives – **just as** He delivered Israel from Egypt.

As we saw in Exodus 12:17 God said, ... I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt:

And in Exodus 13:9 ...with a strong hand has the Lord brought thee out of Egypt.

Yes, a big part of pursuing holiness (Hebrews 12:14), and going on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1), involves **identifying sin** and removing it from our lives. Yet, from what we have seen, this aspect of avoiding sin—of overcoming—is not actually the priority for this Feast. We do not want to be separated from God forever.

Exodus 12:15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, **that soul shall be cut off** from Israel.

Our ability to put all the sin out of our lives completely depends on God – He does the work. Through His Holy Spirit He shows us how and why to overcome sin in our lives. He does not do it for us – He leads the way and makes it possible. But we must follow.

Colossians 1:13 informs us that God “has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

The apostle Paul writes in Galatians 1:4 that Jesus Christ “gave Himself for our sins, that He might **deliver us** from this present evil age.” Our sins have been paid for, we are no longer under the sway of the one who has the power of death (Hebrews 2:14). Jesus Christ has purchased us, taking away Satan's dominion over us, so now we can be slaves of righteousness instead (Romans 6:18).

This Feast, then, is a joyous remembrance of the difference God has made between us and those who are still under the spiritual Pharaoh—still enslaved to sin and death. As with Old Israel, it is **only because of what God has done** that we have this freedom. God tells us, “You truly are unleavened – now live it.”

The righteousness of Jesus Christ has been **imputed** to us because of Christ's sacrifice. We “are truly unleavened” because of Christ's sacrifice.

Now that we are truly are unleavened, it is incumbent that we start behaving like it. ...living it ...acting it out in our every deed.

Is there enough evidence to convict me of being a Christian? Since Christ's righteousness was imputed to us, we need to conform to it, to make His righteousness, our own.

As it says in Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Our sins have been forgiven, and we have been delivered, so now we have the opportunity to walk – to live – be consistent with that unleavened state that has been imputed to us through our fellowship with Christ.

But it all begins with what the Father and Son did on our behalf. What this shows is that our abiding in Christ depends on our **eating the spiritual unleavened bread**—the Bread of Life—on a continuous basis.

All of these outstanding gifts are dependent on our “eating” – “putting on Jesus Christ through taking in His Word and consuming **His involvement** in our lives.

We must act as He acted. We must speak as He spoke. We must have Jesus' attitude about all things.

Few people know Jesus and what He taught, and even fewer are willing to submit to His way of living.

Romans 13:14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

We must feel about things as He felt about them. We are given God's counsel and God's word so that we can always live according to the way that leads to Christ **living** in us. That is what Putting on Christ means.

Being a true Christian means dying daily for the Truth of God and the People of God as Jesus did. The world could not care less about that what Jesus represented, but we believe the way of life that Jesus represented. That is what brings salvation. We must do as He did – even to the laying down of our lives for each other.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

There is only one way to “put on Christ” and that is to know Him well. We must serve one another as He served us. This is something we must always be doing.

Are we as tolerant as Jesus is? Are His values and principles, my values and principles – without compromise? Do we forgive as He forgives?

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ lives in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

This week, each and every time we eat a piece of unleavened bread – stop and think – I am putting on Jesus Christ – I am becoming as Jesus is - I am living my life as He lived His – and then He will be living in us.

Then He can say of us, John 6:56 He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, **dwells** in me, and I in him.

End: The Feast to Eat