

—{1}. **Lord's Supper** ..... **An Object Lesson**

A. Scripture Reading ..... Matthew 26:26–30

1. *And while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. 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." And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.* (NAS)

B. Object Lessons

1. Mr Fast, on the Sundays in which he has been preaching, has been giving a talk to the youngsters using some object as an illustration or picture of a spiritual truth.
2. Now, about once a month in this church service, in common with a lot of other churches such as ours, we have a part of the service called the Lord's Supper. This is an object lesson that Jesus gave to us. It has several purposes, one of which is to proclaim a spiritual truth, the truth of how God has provided eternal life through Jesus Christ. On this Sunday, as we seek to do yearly, we have this service while the younger children are still present so that they may learn from this object lesson.

C. First we who are Christians share a small piece of this Bread

1. the lesson in the bread:
  - a. how many of you boys or girls have sandwiches for lunch?
    - (A) well in many countries, bread, in one of its many forms, is the most important daily food
    - (B) so it is called the staff of life
  - b. In John chapter 6, Jesus tells us
    - (A) that He is the bread of God
    - (B) that came down from heaven

- (C) that is the bread of life
  - (D) and that whoever comes to Jesus shall never hunger
  - c. when Jesus held the first Lord's Supper, he told his friends that this Bread was his body; we just read that, didn't we?
  - d. The tenth chapter of the book of Hebrews explains this
    - (A) God prepared a body in which His Son, Jesus Christ entered the world, born of Mary, in Bethlehem's stable
    - (B) All His life, Jesus did God's will, as no one else has
    - (C) So Jesus could offer his body on the cross to God
  - e. When Jesus did that, when His body was broken for us
    - (A) He bore our sins in His body on the cross
    - (B) bearing the punishment for our sins
    - (C) that those who receive Him as their Saviour might never have to be punished for those sins.
2. ... and, after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ...
3. Let us give thanks for Jesus, who offered His body to God to bear our punishment, that we can have eternal life
- D. Then, those who trust in Jesus as Saviour, share this cup of juice
1. it is called wine in the Bible because it comes from grape vines
    - a. if you lived around the Mediterranean, as Jesus and His friends did, then you would know that the most abundant fruit in many places was the grape vine, and its juice was the most common drink besides water
    - b. have any of you boys or girls ever spilt grape juice on a white table-cloth? If so, then you know that it really stains with a deep red colour – a colour much like that of blood.
  2. when Jesus held the first Lord's Supper, he told his friends that this was his blood, poured out for many;

we just read that, too.

- a. why did Jesus, God's only Son, have to die on the cross?
- b. if there were any other way it could have been done, God would have done it that way
- c. but every one of us is a sinner, rebels against God
- d. and the punishment for sin is death
- e. and Jesus poured out his blood in death on the cross, a death by execution, to give evidence that the penalty and the punishment for our sins has been paid
- f. it was poured out for the forgiveness of our sin

3. ...when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins..."

4. Peter, will you give thanks for Jesus who shed His blood on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven

**A. Introduction**

1. Today in Aurora, the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring what they term 'The World's Longest Street Festival'
  - a. perhaps you discovered that in trying to cross Yonge Street on your way to church this morning
  - b. some of the merchants in town will have displays
  - c. I believe and hope that some of the churches in town will have stands and be distributing invitations and tracts
  - d. but in one sense, call it a festival, is an overstatement
  - e. for, in its fullest sense, a festival is to be associated with a feast and with feasting
  - f. and no one has invited me to a feast!
  - g. but, next Sunday after church you are invited to one!
  
2. But the Bible we find filled with feasts and festivals
  - a. for example, when God was about to deliver Israel from their bondage in the land of Israel, what did He have them do the night before His deliverance?
    - (A) were they to fast?
    - (B) were they to mourn?
    - (C) ... sit around with long faces?
    - (D) were they to get dressed in sack-cloth?
    - (E) ... put ashes on their head?
    - (F) No!
    - (G) they were to have a feast, a feast of roasted lamb
    - (H) a feast they to finish completely that night
    - (I) any scrap left for the morning was to be burned
  - b. this was the feast behind the Lord's Supper
    - (A) Jesus was facing the last few hours of His life

- (B) His soul was troubled, He was in anguish
- (C) yet we read His saying, '[With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer](#)' (Luke 22:15)
- (D) and left this feast as a memorial to His disciples and us
- c. God ordained great feasts throughout the year
  - (A) the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the Spring
  - (B) the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost; this very Sunday, being 7 weeks after Resurrection Sunday is celebrated as Pentecost Sunday in many churches; you will find in your bulletin a leaflet on Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks
  - (C) the Feast of Trumpets and Tabernacles in the Fall
  - (D) times of rejoicing, times of remembrance
- d. and a fact that is often overlooked
  - (A) feasting was associated with many of the sacrifices and offerings – exceptions, whole offering, sin offering
  - (B) some were for the feasting by those ministering in the tabernacle in the early years and later in the temple
  - (C) many were for feasting by those who brought the offering: times of rejoicing as they brought peace and thank offering, wave offerings, first fruits and so on
- e. finally, and I do mean finally, the Bible ends with the note of a great feast, a great banquet, one to which every born again believer will be brought ... the [Marriage Supper of the Lamb](#) in Revelation chapter 19
- 3. Why, then, why all this feasting in the Bible?
  - a. God knows our frame; He made us, he understands our thoughts and is acquainted with all our ways
  - b. and God appointed these times ...
    - (A) for they are intended to be times of rejoicing in the good things that God gives to us daily
    - (B) for they are intended to be time of remembering that God does give us good things daily
    - (C) '[the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus](#)' (Ephesians 2:7)
  - c. so that in the busy rounds of life, men and women

- (A) could stop
- (B) and rejoice
- (C) and remember
- (D) and pronounce a blessing
- (E) and say grace
- (F) and be thankful
- (G) to God for His providence, in all he provides

## B. God Provides

### 1. that is the theme of these verses in Psalm 65

- a. God carefully and abundantly and festively provides for His creation and for His new creation, His people
- b. no wonder He is described as 'the confidence of all the ends of the earth and of the far-off seas' (verse 5)
- c. we speak of a parent of being a good family provider
- d. well, God is pre-eminently the Provider – we have had some rain this week, so our grass is growing into a jungle – who rains on the just and the unjust
- e. the people of Israel were taken from land of Egypt, where all they had to do for their crops was to make a channel in the ground for the water to flow (Deuteronomy 11:10), taken from Egypt into Canaan, a land of mountains and valleys, where they had to depend on God sending the rain – and God provided
- f. and in this Psalm we read (NKJV)
  - (A) verse 9: ... You provide their grain ... (that's bread!)
  - (B) verse 13: ... The pastures are clothed with flocks ...
  - (C) and ... The valleys also are covered with grain ...

### 2. This, too, is the message of the New Testament

- a. Jesus said, "For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather

into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"  
(Matthew 6:25-26 NAS)

b. Paul reminds us: "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19 NAS)

3. God is pre-eminently the Provider!

#### C. God Provides Carefully

1. Jesus spoke of His Father as being a gardener or farmer (that's what the KJV word, husbandman, means)

... "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." (John 15:1 NIV)

a. so does Isaiah 5 describing God and Israel, His vineyard

b. and that is the way this Psalm describes God

2. God is a gardener carefully tending

a. look back at verse 9 (NKJV): You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it.

b. can you not see the Gardener, the Farmer, going around looking at His fields: adding some water where its thirsty, some fertilizer where its needed, checking it, watching it

c. or, verse 10 (NKJV): You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.

d. doing everything the crop needs to thrive

3. God the Provider does so carefully, thoughtfully

#### D. God Provides Abundantly

1. Check out what is said

a. verse 10: You water its ridges abundantly ... (NKJV)

b. verse 11: Thou hast crowned the year with Thy bounty and thy paths drip with fatness (NAS)  
abundance (NKJV)

c. verse 13: The meadows are clothed with flocks (NAS)

d. there is nothing half-hearted , nothing grudging in that provision, is there!

2. there is no niggardliness in the way that God deals with us

a. there are no seconds in His materials, no cast offs

b. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 AV)

#### E. God Provides Festively

1. Don't you love the imagery of the Psalm? ... The little hills rejoice on every side ... The valleys ... shout for joy, they also sing. (NKJV)

2. God has provided the wherewithal for a feast ... and the joy that turns the feast into a festivity and a festival

#### F. Let us Rejoice, Praise and Thank Him!

1. now, the theme of this Psalm is the natural, physical provision that God makes for each and every one – "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow." (James 1:17 NAS)

2. but behind this, there is the spiritual Provision He has made for us in Christ Jesus; we saw that in our communion service; we praised God for that in our songs of worship; we rejoice in that; so that we can exclaim, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3 NAS)

3. Do you know this God who Provides as your own heavenly Father? If not, He has provided Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, so that you can come to Him now. If you do, then you will be able to sing our closing hymn, 'The Lord's My Shepherd' with understanding and meaning along with the countless millions of other believers.



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Various English versions of the Holy Bible are used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in [square brackets]. The versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1975 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
NLT	1996 New Living Translation © 1996 by Tyndale Charitable Trust
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

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