

“MY TABLE” FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

**Stark Road Gospel Hall
Summer Ministry Series
Elton Decker August 9,2006**

My Table: Place of fellowship and communion.

John 12:1-2 Martha served, Lazarus sat at the table with Him,
Mary worshipped: Each did their part without a word recorded and not a murmur,
but with hearts devoted to the Lord Jesus. What a privilege for each to enjoy.

The Table: First mention in the Old Testament

Exodus 25:23 “Thou shalt make a table.” It was to be placed in the holy place
with the candlestick and the altar of incense.

The Place of his Presence

Exodus 25:8 “Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them”
Vs. 9 –”according to all that I show thee after the pattern”
Vs. 23 -table made of acacia wood – overlaid with pure gold

The Place of His Holiness

Leviticus 24 – twelve cakes put on the table
Vs. 2 – pure oil
Vs. 4- pure candlestick
Vs.6 - pure table
Vs. 7 – pure frankincense
Vs. 9- a holy place

Exodus 28: 2 -”thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron....”

Psalm 89:7 – “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of His saints and to be
had in reverence of all them that are about Him”

Place of Unity

Exodus 40:22 – “...and he put the table in the tent of the congregation
Vs. 23 – “...he set the bread in order up it before the Lord as the Lord had
commanded Moses.

Leviticus 24:6 – “...thou shalt set them in two rows, six in a row upon the pure
table before the Lord.
vs. 7 - ...”thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row...”

Twelve loaves – number of the tribes of Israel – all seen as the same – UNITY

I Corinthians 10:17 – “...for we being many, are one bread and one body

I Corinthians 12:12 – “...for as the body is one and hath many members and all the members of that one body, being many are one body, so also is Christ...”

The loaves upheld by the table – the presence of the bread - nearness of His presence at all times – God’s care for His own at all times.

Jude 24 – “...now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...”

Num. 3:30 – 32 – Oversight over the table and the sanctuary
Kohathites and son of Aaron
God left nothing out of order – all instructions given

Acts 20:28 – “...take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood.

I Peter 5:1-4 vs 1 – the elders which are among you I exhort...
vs 2 – feeding the flock of God – taking the oversight willingly – to guard – to watch over and feed the people of God.
Vs 3- Neither as being lords over God’s heritage (being examples)

Fellowship at The Table:

Ex 29:4 – “...and Aaron and his sons, they shall bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation and shalt wash them with water...”

vs 7 – “...thou shalt take the anointing oil and anoint him...”

vs 20 – blood was put upon the right ear, right hand and right toe

vs 21 – blood and anointing oil sprinkled upon Aaron, upon his garments and upon his sons – *the whole person set apart for God*

vs 29 – Holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons after him

vs 30 – That son / priest shall put them on seven days when he comes

I Peter 2:5 – “...ye also as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy Priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices; acceptable to God by Jesus Christ...”

Vs 9 – “...but ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...”

WHO Was to Fellowship At The Table And Eat Bread:

- Lev. 22:10 – NO STRANGER shall eat of the holy things.
 - Does scripture teach / allow an “ open table” ?
- I Cor. 14:16 “...how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned...”
- why do we have a ‘back seat’ at the Breaking of Bread meeting ?
- I Cor. 11:28 – “...but let a man so examine himself and so let him eat...”
vs 29 – “...he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”
 - we are a holy priesthood and enables us to fellowship at the Lord’s table- Lev. 22:3 – “...he that goeth unto the holy things having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall cut off from My presence. I am the Lord.”
 - uncleanness – could be moral sin - I Cor 5
 - could be wrong doctrine – Romans 16:17
 - we are taught to ‘mark’ them which cause divisions and/or offenses contrary to doctrine
 - vs 4 – leper – uncleanness – unconfessed sin
 - vs 8 – he shall not eat – defiled from the world

I Cor. 15:33 – “Evil communications corrupt good manners”

 - Lev. 22:10 – a sojourner (guest) of the priest “shall not eat”
a hired servant “shall not eat”
 - earthly connections give no admittance to eat

Lev. 22:12 – If the priests daughter marries a stranger, she may not eat
II Cor. 6:14- Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

QUALIFICATIONS of Those Who Could Eat:

- Must go to the brazen alter – salvation into priestly family
- Must go to the laver – wash hands and feet from defilement
- Must enter into the Holy Place – “....come out from among them and be ye separate...” I Cor. 6:17

ORDER of The Table:

Ex. 40:22 – Moses put the table in the tent of the tabernacle and in verse 23, he set the bread in order upon it before the Lord, just as the Lord had commanded him

I Kings 10:4 – When the queen of Sheba had seen Solomon’s wisdom, the house he built, the meat of his table, the sitting of his servants, the standing of his ministers, their apparel, the cupbearers...etc. – *perfect order-*

there was no more spirit in her—the half was not told me..

This should be our desire today – order led by the Spirit of God – leading out in songs, in prayer and reading of scripture.

PROVISIONS of The Table:

Lev. 24:5 – the twelve cakes made of fine flour speak of perfect manhood and the pure frankincense upon each row speak of their devotion to God
vs. 9 – “...it shall be Aaron and his sons...and they shall eat it in the holy place...”

- also in verse 9, the bread for the priests to feed upon for nourishment – we are to feed upon the Lord Jesus Christ

John 6:35 – “...I am the bread of life...he that cometh to me shall never hunger”

John 6:51 – “...I am the living bread which came down from Heaven”

John 10:10 – a more abundant life – do we enjoy feeding upon Him, his person, life and work?

- Priests brought bread *every* Sabbath – not occasionally or at random/at will
- Priest was both a giver and receiver (received a portion)
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- When do we gather?? – Acts 20:7 – “Upon the first day of the week when the
- Disciples were come together to break bread..
- I Cor. 11:26- For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup..

Consider the freshness of the bread – new every Sabbath – do we have a fresh enjoyment of the Lord each day?

There was unity as they partook of the bread and shared together

There was fellowship and worship in that holy place

II Sam 9 – as David said to Mephibosheth – “...thou shalt eat bread at my table continually”

vs. 13 – David’s promise – “...so Mephibosheth dwelt at Jerusalem...for he did continually at the Kings’ table...”

God’s provision for us and God’s promise to us

Ps. 23:6 – “...surely goodness and mercy...I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”

PRESERVATION at The Table: (protection)

Ps.23:5 – “...thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies”

vs. 4 – “...thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me...”

Satisfaction is found while feeding on Christ and while in the holy place there was preservation from surrounding evil and defilement.

John 17:15 – I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

DIRECTION TO THE TABLE:

Luke 22:8 – “...go and prepare the Passover that we may eat...”
vs 9 – “...where wilt thou that we prepare...”

A good question for today....where shall we meet him?

vs10 – “...a man bearing a pitcher of water, follow him into the house. What a guide to follow- the word of God..

vs 12 – “...he shall show you a large upper room furnished, there make ready...” Here we see that preparation is needed

vs 13 – “...they went and found as He had said...” (obedience)
In the room they found the bread (vs. 19) the cup (vs. 20) and the table(vs. 21)

vs 14 – The Lord was there – when the hour was come, He sat down with the twelve apostles – they were there, *on time, together*, to meet with the Lord

vs. 21 – “...the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table...but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed...”

I Cor. 11:21 – “...ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons... ye cannot be partakers of the Lords table and the table of demons...” – the Corinthians had displaced the Lord with idols – Judas had displaced the Lord for money and fame
Are we willing to give the Lord His rightful place?

Luke 22:24 – There was a strife among them – who should be the greatest
Are we seeking a place for ourselves.

Phil. 2:3- But in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Phil. 2:5- Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

Heb 9:2 – The last mention of the table in scripture

I Cor. 11:26-For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come.