

Rev. 19:7-9 - Lord's Supper as a Rehearsal Dinner

Introduction - I think it is fitting for our first Sunday back to be a Lord's Supper service. We have been *church distancing* for several weeks and it is good to be back in each other's presence. The Lord's Table is a time of tangible closeness for the people of God – close with each other and with our Lord. In the Supper we are reminded that there is a great distance that separates us from our Lord...but not for long. For in this meal we proclaim the Lord's death UNTIL HE COMES. This meal should have INTIMACY and EXPECTANCY. We should be close to HIM and expect to see Him soon. We eat this meal in anticipation for a greater, more tangible meal that is yet to come.

Our text today mentions a magnificent meal – THE WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB. I want to suggest today that this meal is a rehearsal dinner for that meal to come...it should be a foretaste of glory divine.

- Luke 22:15-18 when Jesus institutes the Lords Supper (Passover to Supper)
 - He eagerly desires to eat it with His disciples
 - Jesus won't eat/drink it again UNTIL it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God
 - This meal has present significance but points to a future extravagance
 - There is an extravagant feast to come that this little meal is just a foretaste
- Jesus was eager to share this meal with His followers
 - Meals are a time of closeness. We should be eager to be together
 - This meal declares our oneness. We are one body, one loaf – 1 Cor. 10:17
 - We all eat the same meal at the same time UNITY
 - We should be eager to close to our Lord
 - John leaning on Jesus at the table (we should lean on Him at this meal)
 - This meal is a time of tangible closeness COMMUNION
 - "this is MY body" this is as close as we can tangibly get to HIM ...for now
 - 1 Cor. 10:16 participation/communion with the body of Christ
- Jesus said that this meal would have a fulfillment in the Kingdom
 - This meal today looks forward to something tomorrow (in the future) a greater meal
 - Matt. 8:11 many come from E & W...feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in kingdom
 - The kingdom of heaven is going to be a heaven of a party
 - Amazing guest list: Abraham....Jesus is going to be there! (food and drink)
 - I think this feast in the Wedding feast of the Lamb - Rev. 19:7-9
- Weddings are a time of great celebration, family togetherness, intimacy and eating & drinking
 - The end of the age will bring the grandest wedding ever....wedding of Jesus the Lamb
 - Talk about a Royal Wedding the King of kings will be getting married
 - There will be gathering of the saints from all time – Enoch, Noah, David, Esther, Mary, us
 - There will be the mystical union between Christ and His bride - intimacy
 - There will be a feast the Marriage Supper of the Lamb Rev. 19:9
- This Lord's supper is a foretaste of that glory divine

- o Have you ever been to a rehearsal dinner? The wedding is right around the corner.
 - You get together and practice...go through the motions of the ceremony
 - You have a dinner – not the reception after the wedding but rehearsal dinner before the wedding
- The Lords Supper is a rehearsal dinner before the Wedding Supper
 - o We eat in anticipation of the meal that is to come
 - o By this meal we proclaim His death UNTIL HE COMES and then we get to eat with Him in person. Social distancing will be done at that meal!
 - o This meal is as tangible as we can get...for now then we can hold on to HIM
 - o This meal we fellowship with some of the saints then all of the saints
 - o This meal is small but is builds expectation for the large meal
 - o This meal is the rehearsal dinner that one is the Wedding supper
 - o This meal is significant that meal is extravagant

This meal should give a “blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. This is my story, this is my song...

If that is your story/song then this meal is for you Open Communion

- Doing things different today - not going to pass the elements (social distancing)
 - o come forward to get individually prepackaged elements

Hear at Your table Lord, this sacred hour,	O let us feel You near, in loving power
Calling our thoughts away from self and sin	as to Your banquet hall, we enter in
Come then O holy Christ, Feed us we pray	Touch with your pierced hands each common day
Making this earthly life full of Your grace	Till in the home of heaven, we find our place

In memory of the Saviors love,	we keep the sacred feast
When every humble contrite heart,	is made a welcome guest
Symbolic of His broken flesh	we take the broken bread
The cup in token of His blood	that was for sinners shed
Under His banner now we sing	the wonders of His love
And so anticipate by faith	the heavenly feast above

Fencing the Table

Discerning the Body

Examining yourself

Enjoying the meal