

**Isaiah 19:19-25 - A Blended Family Meal**

Intro - Lord's Day...Lord's Prayer...Lord's Supper. It is always good to observe this ordinance and to have a fresh reminder of the gospel. Jesus is the gospel, and He has ordained that we partake of this meal and proclaim His death until He comes <sup>1 Cor. 11:26</sup>. We need constant reminders of the gospel, and we need to often rehearse it in our minds and in our meetings. As we prepare to partake today, I want us to not only remember Jesus Christ but to also remember some of the benefits of His death. Christ has reconciled us to God...but He has also reconciled us to each other.

This meal reminds us that God has taken a wide variety of people and made them His people. The Jewish nation is God's chosen people, but God's love extends beyond the Jewish people. God chose the nation of Israel to be the means to bless all the nations of the earth (Gen. 12:3). God sent His word by way of the Jews. God sent His Son by way of Jews. But God has gathered more than just the Jews. God has gathered sinners from every tribe, language people and nation and brought them to Himself. God has quite a blended family and this meal is a unifying meal. Jesus said that *the cup* was a symbol of the blood of the covenant which was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins <sup>Matt. 26:28</sup>. Jesus died for "*the many*" and invites "*the many*" to gather together IN UNITY around His table.

- 1 Cor. 10:16-17
  - These verses teach us about the symbolism & participation found in the meal.
    - 10:16 - Cup = blood of Christ
      - Bread = body of Christ
    - 10:17 - the bread has an expanded meaning that we must not miss.
      - There in one loaf...one bread = one body
      - The bread reminds us the we "*the many*" are one in Christ
      - The many ingredients are brought together to form one bread
- The Passover meal was the forerunner to the Lord's Supper
  - Important celebration for the Jewish people
    - Reminder of their deliverance from their slavery in Egypt
  - The Lord's Supper is a reminder of a greater deliverance and a more expansive people. Many more people "*the many*"
- "*The many*" includes former enemies.
  - Is. 19:20 - God sends Egypt a Savior and a Champion to deliver them
  - Is. 19:24 - Israel is joined by others - Egypt & Assyria
    - Former enemies of Israel are now joined with Israel
  - Is. 19:25
    - God makes Egypt "*His people*" ....Assyria the "*work of His hands*"
    - Descriptors reserved for Israel are applied to others
  - God takes mortal enemies and makes them family....His family

- Part of the beauty and benefit of the Gospel is unity among former enemies
  - Sinners are reconcile to God
    - Rom. 5:10
    - 2 Cor. 5:18-19
  - Sinners are also reconciled to each other
  - God puts us all around one table and one meal....Blended Family meal
  - Ps. 87:3-6
    - The city of God has citizens from many different places.
    - Rahab (Egypt), Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia & Zion
    - The cities of the world divide over ethnicity and nationality....
      - ...but the city of God is one blended family
  - Romans 9:25-26
    - Americans are not God's chosen people but I am glad that God has chosen some Americans to be His people
  - Eph. 2:12-17
    - Sin has separated us, but Jesus unites us...He breaks down the wall
  - Rev. 5:9
  - John 11:51-52
  - John 10:14-16
- God has brought a world of sinners together to share in one supper.
  - Parable of the Marriage Feast
  - Matt. 22:9-10
- As we get ready to partake and celebrate the supper...and we look at the elements
  - Remember Jesus Christ....He has reconciled you to God
  - Also remember the Christ has reconciled us to each other
    - We are one loaf....one bread....one body

*From every race, from every clime Thy people gathered 'round,  
the emblems of Thy grace sublime with gratitude abound.*

*Partaking of the bread, we know our strength from Thee derives,  
And as we take the cup, we go to witness with our lives.*

*Thro' out the world Thy table's set, Dear Lord, our Savior, Guide,  
In hope we know that men shall yet in brotherhood abide.*

*From north to south, from east to west Men gather to recall  
In reverent memory Thy blest redemptive love for all*

Open Communion

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Solemn celebration

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* (# 111 in Red & #144 in Blue)