

An Intimate Evening with Jesus

- As we gather together for the anniversary of the Memorial Supper – the one occasion Jesus asked that all remember (**Luke 22:19**) –this should be a time of personal reflection and forward contemplation of our aspirations for peace on earth and the ultimate adoption from faith sons on earth to spirit sons in heaven. (**Romans 8:23**)

- It is a time to fully enjoy the freedom of the sons of God now, and to prepare ourselves for expanded freedom in the eternal heavenly career. (**2 Corinthians 3:17**) When our hearts are truly united in purpose with Christ to do the Father's will, it makes for a spirit charged, contemplative and intimate evening with our Lord, Christ Jesus.

- Let those** among Jehovah's Witnesses leave behind the ignorance and ungodly defiance of Jesus that is manifest in the Watchtower organization. **Let those** Christians who have always seen the need to partake of the 'bread and wine' embark on this evening with a renewed appreciation of what this night means to them, and to the whole world. And **let those** who had never understood the importance of the evening be born again into a new fellowship, a new brotherhood of the sons of God through the life and ministry of Christ Jesus.

- When Jesus instituted the first Memorial Supper, he invited his close associates and closed the door behind them with no concern about the scribes, the Pharisees, or the disbelieving nation. They existed in their own intimate moment where brotherly love and humility reigned. Jesus knew that shortly after the Supper, his time would come.

- In imitation of Jesus and his apostles, let this evening be our refuge from darkness and ignorance. Let us leave behind those who breathe threats against our open confession of union with Christ, and instead relish in being able to share with like believers who by their own free will accept the invitation to fully drink the cup and follow the Christ wherever he goes – even into the heavens. (**John 14:3**)

- This is a participatory meal, a night of sharing with the Christ, a respectful supper in honor of our Lord.

It is not an informational meeting, a public talk, a recruiting session, or a promotional meeting for upcoming events.

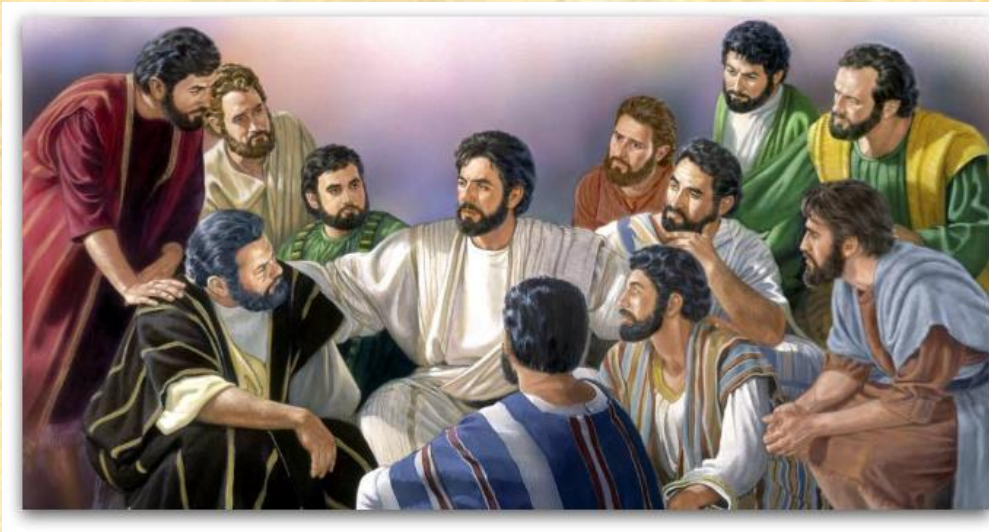
It is not a night for 'respectful abstinence' or passive observance.

It is not a night for our egos, our knowledge or our extensive research to be front and center.

It is not a time to prove religious superiority, dabble in prophetic interpretations, or engage in any conduct that would distract from focusing on the honoree and remembering the glorious life and ministry of Christ Jesus.

- The life and ministry of Jesus, as represented by the 'bread' and the 'cup,' is the means by which every generation can have and exercise hope in the unbreakable promise that the Kingdom of the Heavens is available for all who endure to the end of their mortal life. (**Matthew 10:22**) Nothing can replace the promise of being face to face with the Father in the distant future in the matchless beauty of the 'True Paradise of God' (**Revelation 2:7**) where His once 'unapproachable light' (**1 Timothy 6:16**) is now a thing of the past because we have successfully become perfect as He is perfect (**Matthew 5:48**) and our light shines brightly in the actual presence of the Father of All creation, both great and small. These are the types of expressions that should dominate the evening.

- Jesus had a message to give to our world and he let nothing distract him from that agenda. He was not concerned with political systems or social reform. Loving the Father with our whole being, loving one another as ourselves (**Mark 12:29-31**), proclaiming the good news of the kingdom that sets men free from enslavement to sin, to dogma, and doctrines of men (**Matthew 28:19-20**), that was the beginning and ending of Jesus' agenda.



- Those who partake of the Christ will be the ones who will be instrumental in ushering in a renewed concept of worship and forward-thinking religion. They are learning to shake off the shackles of controlling and domineering religion and experience self-governance as the free children of God. They are the foundation stones to a new society that will look to the heavens as its future instead of the dust of the ground. This generation is the new beginning of an enlightened era. The sons of the kingdom are indeed, 'the light of the world.' (Matthew 5:14-16)

Enhancing the Meaning of the Emblems

- The old Passover commemorated the emergence of the Jewish people from a state of slavery into individual physical freedom. The new Remembrance Supper instituted by Jesus commemorates the new dispensation wherein the individual emerges from the bondage of ceremonialism and tradition into spiritual freedom – the joy of the brotherhood and fellowship of the liberated faith sons of the living God. (Romans 8:20-21)

- "As they continued eating, Jesus took a loaf, and after saying a blessing, he broke it, and giving it to the disciples, he said: **"Take, eat. This means my body."** And taking a cup, he offered thanks and gave it to them, saying: **"Drink out of it, all of you, for this means my 'blood of the covenant,' which is to be poured out in behalf of many for forgiveness of sins."** – **Matthew 26:26-28**

- As we prepare to partake of the Memorial emblems, let us reflect on his words and allow ourselves the freedom to recognize a higher and enhanced understanding commensurate with our growing spiritual capacity. We are not bound to the meanings given according to the chains of tradition and dogma. We are free to use our spiritual insight and to expound on the meaning of (1) the symbols and (2) the practice of eating and drinking of Christ, in order to develop a larger and greater understanding.

1. What does eating of Christ mean to me?
2. What does drinking of Christ mean to me?
3. What does Christ expect of me now that I have partaken of him?
4. What does the Father expect of me?
5. How does this event change my relationship with my brothers?
6. How does it change my relationship with the Father and Christ Jesus?
7. How does it change my relationship with the world?
8. And what can I do to be worthy of having a sharing with Christ?

- Jesus asked that as often as we do this, we do it in remembrance of him. First, we remember him by looking back upon his life in the flesh, recalling that he did indeed live among man as the word of God (**John 1:1**), the bread of life (**John 6:48**), the way, the truth and life (**John 14:6**), the one to whom all authority has been given in heaven and on earth (**Matthew 28:18**), the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. (**Isaiah 9:6**)

- Next, we accept him by receiving the outpouring of the Spirit of Truth into our own vessels so that it bears witness with our spirit (**Romans 8:16**) and so that we are guided, comforted, strengthened, empowered and renewed. (**John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 15:26-27; John 16:13; Acts 1:8**)

- When we have concluded this supper, let us resolve in our hearts that we will never turn our backs on the friendships and relationships we have cultivated this evening, learning to love one another 'as Jesus loved us.' (**John 13:34**)

- It is up to the sons of light to show the glory and freedom of the kingdom of the heavens. We can no longer hide and live as though we have no power, for the only real power is spiritual power. So let our lights shine brightly into the hearts of men so that all who witness our faith will see the living Christ in us as clearly as if he were standing with them as he stood with his disciples nearly 2,000 years ago.