



Festival of Unleavened Bread Feasting on Yeshua

⁶Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?
⁷Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Cor. 5:6-8

I. UNLEAVENED BREAD LOGISTICS

A. Unleavened Bread: Sanctification - Leaving “Egypt’s bread” behind; leading us out of sin & into God’s teachings; Yeshua as our Sanctifier

1. Learning a New Way: Leaven can represent sin but can also represent teaching and be represented with a positive kingdom dynamic. We are to leave the leaven of Egypt and the world and are to embrace the leaven (teaching) of Yeshua.
2. “How long O Lord”: 7 Days—a number of completion—represents our sanctification process being until we are dead or until He comes for us
3. Two Holy Convocations: First & Seventh Days
4. Removing the Leaven on the first day of Unleavened Bread (Exodus 12:15) not before the Passover meal.

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. Exodus 12:15

5. Commanded to eat Unleavened Bread: as Yeshua is represented by the unleavened matzah which is striped and pierced, this is indicative of our need to “feast on” Yeshua regularly for our nourishment/sustenance
 - a. bread of affliction. ³Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste— Deut. 16:3
 - b. identifying with Yeshua: Eating unleavened bread means identifying with the suffering and afflictions that Yeshua walked out on our behalf.
⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5
 - c. practical application: As we eat the matzah during this week we can say something on the order of: “Thank You Yeshua for suffering for me. I need You and choose to talk with You and connect with You. Help me to grow in my intimacy with You.”
 - d. death before resurrection: Praise God for Yeshua’s resurrection but we are entering into a time of entering into Yeshua’s suffering and identifying with His death before our resurrection and exaltation.

II. FEASTING ON YESHUA

A. Who Yeshua is: Yeshua implicitly claimed deity in at least twelve ways.

He claimed three divine rights:

1. The Judge: to judge mankind,
2. The Forgiver: to forgive sins, and
3. The Giver of Eternal Life: to grant eternal life.

He declared that:

4. His presence was God's presence as well as the presence of God's kingdom and that

5. The attitude people took toward Him would determine their eternal destiny.
 6. He identified His actions with God's actions,
 7. He taught the truth on His own authority, and
 8. He performed miracles on His own authority.
 9. He appeared to receive worship or obeisance.
 10. He assumed that His life was a pattern for others, a 'divinely authoritative form of life.'
 11. He applied to Himself OT texts that describe God; and
 12. In several parables indirectly identified Himself with a father or king who represents God.”
- Daniel Doriani, "The Deity of Christ in the Synoptic Gospels," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 37:3 (September 1994): 339-40.

B. Focus on Yeshua: we are to meditate on Him; think about Who the Bible says He is; agree with Who the Bible says He is; and ask for greater revelation of Who He is

1. Worship: We naturally worship when we “see” Him.
2. Transformation: We are changed from glory to glory by just a dim glimpse of Who He is. *18But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror (dimly) the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.* 2 Corinthians 3:18

- a. We would be overwhelmed and undone by a focused view of Him. We would all like a more clearly focused vision of Him, but thankfully we don't need this in order to be transformed.

C. Many Other Biblical Metaphors: There are many other biblical metaphors to describe this feasting: abiding in Yeshua, drinking His living water, coming to Him, etc.

D. Logistics

1. We “Feast On” Yeshua: We talk to Him and have relationship with Him, and He through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit's activity communes with us and brings greater light to the things in our life that are not like Him.
2. We Focus on Him: We realize our sin most effectively as a by-product of realizing Who He is
 - a. we realize our need
 - b. sanctification is a life-long process
3. We Repent (a consistent process), place our sin on Yeshua, and commit to walk differently
 - a. *more repentance as we grow*: Spiritual maturity should be expressed by more holiness, less sin, but not by less repentance. As we grow in holiness, our awareness and sensitivity to sin increases. The Holy Spirit sheds more light in our souls, and we see sins which we didn't see before or which we ignored. We feel the gravity of sins which may have previously seemed small or insignificant...Paradoxically, the less we sin, the more we repent. Gil Afriat
4. We Talk to Him: We need God to be with us and help us in this process; we consistently commune with the Holy Spirit, talk to Him, and ask Him for help.
 - a. *lament & complaint*: The place of lament & complaint in our words – lament and complaint to Yeshua is called prayer. These aspects are legitimate in our times with YHWH. Lament includes the aspect of: I hurt and You seem far off. Do You care at all? How long O LORD!
5. We Read His Word: We pray-read His Word and apply His teachings to our lives.
 - a. *for truths about His character/nature*. We can say: “Thank You Yah for this _____” and then add “Show me more”
 - b. *for Biblical commandments*: we can say: “I purpose to obey this command” and then add “Help me God”

E. Two Main Components: Time and words – we give Him our quality time to be with Him and then we talk to Him

F. In Summation: *Delighting in Jesus means simply being able to say: 'I would rather be with Jesus than with anyone else on earth! I prefer His company even over that of my spouse, my family, my friends. I would rather spend time with Him than with anybody else. He is my delight! It also means being able to say, 'I long to be shut in with Him—because He is the only One who can satisfy me. All others leave me empty and unfulfilled. No one but Jesus can touch my deepest needs....If we truly delight in Him, everything that hinders us from coming to Him will bother us. We'll grow lonely, heartsick for Him, knowing that nothing else can touch or fill that deep spot in our hearts. No prayer can be wholly pleasing to Him until He is assured we come to Him because we prefer Him. David Wilkerson*

III. PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

A. The Prayer of Salvation: the Bible says very little about a “prayer of salvation” and instead stresses much about the need to have a close relationship with Yeshua with a spirit of obedience. While we place much emphasis on it in this culture, Yeshua doesn’t seem to make as much of it.

1. *Our Faith is Dynamic:* You and I are either growing closer to Yeshua in this season with a softer and more tender heart or we are backsliding with our heart becoming incrementally more hard and cold towards Him and His ways. Our faith with Him is not encompassed by a one-time transaction but an ongoing relationship with Him that can grow or diminish.

a. *marital example:* Just like we as married couples could foolishly point to our wedding day/marriage certificate as proof of our marriage. Yes, those two things were the entry point to our covenant, and not indicative that we are doing the work and putting in the time to grow in our marriage. That day and the paper to prove it is the *starting point* and not the *destination* of our life together as married couples.

2. *Examine Yourself:* Paul asked the congregation in Corinth to examine themselves to see if they were in the faith. And his solution wasn’t for them to pray a prayer.

5Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! 2 Corinthians 13:5

B. How are We Doing? 9 questions for sleepy Christians from Tim Keller: Have I fallen asleep?

1. How real has God been this week in your heart?

2. How clear and how vivid is your awareness of God forgiveness and fatherly love?

3. Are you having any particular seasons of sweet delight in God?

4. Do you really sense His presence in your life?

5. Have you been finding scripture to be alive and active?

6. Are you finding certain biblical promises extremely precious and encouraging? Which ones?

7. Are you finding God challenging you and calling you to something through the Word? In what ways?

8. Are you finding God’s grace more glorious and moving now than you have in the past?

9. Are you conscious of a growing sense of evil in your heart and in response a growing dependence on the grasp of the preciousness of the mercy of God?

C. Repent & Change: If there is conviction related to our personal assessment, we have time now to repent and to change. We don’t have to experience significant tears or goosebumps, but we can make adjustments and change now. After we die, it will be too late, but we can change now and draw close to Yeshua who is able to melt our hard hearts.

1. *Start Again:* Repent, make things right, hit delete, and start again

“I take my cold, cold heart; I take my unrenewed mind; I take Your Word in my hand; and then I give You time to come and melt me.” Misty Edwards

IV. A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY

- A. A 30 Day Challenge:** One of the most important ways that we can grow in feasting on Yeshua is to spend time with Him. One of the ideas that Raymond and Martina came up with (that the rest of our elder team heartily supported) was to have a thirty day challenge of spending 30 consecutive days of at least one hour a day set apart to spend with Yeshua starting this Sunday (April 9th). Here are the parameters:
1. One hour a day for 30 consecutive days
 2. Prayer times are consecrated and set apart times only. Prayer "on the go" won't qualify.
 3. If you miss a day then you must then start over and begin a new 30-day cycle (let this be considered a "win-win" situation)
 4. "Pray and obey" here. God will help you find the time to engage in what can become a very spiritually rewarding activity/habit.
- B. Accountability is Vital:** If wanting to commit to be a part of this spiritual challenge, then let one of the elders know, and we'll sign you up to be a part of this initiative. We will then help provide mechanisms to chart our progress with this.

APPENDIX. HOW DO I BEGIN THE REDEMPTION PROCESS

- A. Apply God's Truths:** persistently and consistently apply the truths of God's Word to your own life.
1. *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.* Romans 3:23
Personal Affirmation: God, I acknowledge that I am a sinner who has fallen short of Your glorious standard. I am in great need before You.
 2. *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Messiah Yeshua our Lord.* Romans 6:23
Personal Affirmation: God, I acknowledge that it is only through Your free gift of righteousness through Yeshua's shed blood that my sins are covered. I freely receive anew Your gift through Yeshua's sacrifice today.
 3. *9If you openly declare that Yeshua is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 11As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."* Romans 10:9-11
Personal Affirmation: Yeshua, I affirm that You are YHWH and that You rose from the dead. I declare You to be the Lord of my life, I hand over the control of my life to You, and I commit to obey You.
- B. Talk to God** (About these truths and how you are feeling)
- C. Actively Believe God's Word:** *Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible (not necessarily my feelings) tells me so.*
- D. Obey & Follow Him Daily**