

FIRST DAY OF ULB
THE LESSONS OF LEAVEN
JAMIE MCNAB 23/4/16

Today is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Why are we here? Why are we doing this? Why are we keeping what most people would say is an Old Testament Feast Day? The simple answer is that God commands us to. Is there a reason? God doesn't do things without a reason.

Is there a lesson? The answer is yes. God is a great designer. He is adding millions ... and ultimately ... billions to His family. The Feast Days are the way God conveys things He wants us to learn ... a blue print.

What was God's purpose for choosing unleavened bread ... what lessons does Jesus and God have for us?

Leviticus 23:1-2 (NKJV)

1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **'The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.**

What if the entire world believed that verse?

These aren't the Jews Feasts ... there is no mention of this in these verses. These aren't mankind's Feast. They are God's Feast Days. (A better translation for Feasts is "appointed times").

Leviticus 23:4-8 (NKJV)

4 **"These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.**

5 **On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.** (THE LORD'S PASSOVER ... NOT THE JEWS!!)

6 **And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.**

7 **On the first day you shall have a holy convocation;** you shall do no customary work on it.

8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. (We can't do this because there is no temple and no Levitical priesthood... But ... that doesn't mean that these days were "done away with") **The seventh day shall be a holy convocation;** you shall do no customary work on it.' "

Exodus 12:14-20 (NKJV)

14 **'So this day shall be to you a memorial; (today ... the 15th) and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.**

15 **Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.** On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For **whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.** (Put to death ... for eating leavened products!!)

16 **On the first day there shall be a holy convocation,** and **on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you.** No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you.

17 **So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread,** for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. (The 15th) Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

18 **In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.**

19 For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.

20 You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.' " (nearly 2 months before the Old Covenant was offered ... a long time before the sacrifices were set up)

Numbers 33:3 (NKJV)

3 They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Exodus 13:3 (NKJV)

3 And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day (the 15th) in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; (out of the slave house) for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

Exodus 13:6-7 (NKJV)

6 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord.

7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread (Hebrew: Chamets ... no leavened thing) shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven (Hebrew: Seor) be seen among you in all your quarters. (Two parts mentioned here ... Put away the leavened and bring in the unleavened bread)

PUT OUT THE LEAVEN!! AND ... WE EAT THE UNLEAVENED!!

Ephesians 4:20-22 (NKJV)

20 But you have not so learned Christ,

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 that you **put off, concerning your former conduct,** the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (**Put off your old habits - the old way of life --- GET rid of it!!**)

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NKJV)

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 and that you **put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.** (**Put on the new nature ... of living righteously**)

Ephesians 4:28 (NKJV)

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, (**put off**) but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, (**put on**) that he may have something to give him who has need.

Does God Himself need the Feast of Unleavened Bread? The answer is No! It is given by God for us ... to help us, to change us, to help equip us for the future. Yet ... if all we during these days is de-leaven our homes ... the physical side ... we actually miss the lesson. The leaven itself is only a symbol that God has chosen to teach us an important spiritual lesson.

So ... on this Feast we are going to look at the 2 ways that God uses leaven. What are the lessons that we get from these days? First ...

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NKJV)

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** (**Don't you recognise the danger!?!?**)

7 Therefore **purge out the old leaven,** that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. **For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.** (**In passing. Paul is writing to a largely Gentile congregation. Which Feast comes after Passover ... presumably**

Unleavened Bread ... even if you are a Gentile ... you still have to keep it)

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, (evil conduct ... evil motives) but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (Clearly we can see that Paul is teaching the Gentiles about the Holy Days)

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NET)

7 Clean out the old "yeast" so that you may be a new batch of dough - you are, in fact, without "yeast". For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Leaven is malice (evil, bad intentions) and wickedness (evil actions).
Unleavened ... honest, sincere, truthful ... good.

And a second use of the word leaven ... False teaching ... False doctrine).

Matthew 16:5-12 (NKJV)

5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread."

8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"

9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up?

10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?

11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**" (False teaching)

12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to **beware** of the leaven of bread, but **of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.** (False teaching, false doctrine)

Let's look at leaven representing sin in our life. We have to take some action after we come to Jesus. Many people accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour ... they "come to the cross" so to speak ... and they "stop" there. They've taken the Passover sacrifice to themselves. But ... there is still action for us to take after Passover. The Passover hasn't fully set us free. There is action required. We have to "get out of Egypt" ... get to leave this picture of a sinful world. We have to leave the house of bondage. Get away from sin. Get out ... with a high hand!

Passover isn't the end of salvation it's the beginning.

Romans 6:1-14 (NKJV)

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! (Certainly not! God forbid! The Greek implies ... Have you fallen off your donkey and knocked your head on a rock?) How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (We are to stop sinning!)

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (If we have been baptised ... Our old man died in the watery grave. We should have left sin ... Bondage ... Pharaoh ... Satan)

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (We start walking in newness of life!)

Romans 6:16-22 (NKJV)

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you (once upon a time) presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

We all used to live in bondage as slaves to sin. We shouldn't be hanging about in "spiritual Egypt" ... we don't want to live there any longer.

There is some corresponding action required after we have taken The Passover.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Our lives should be sacrificed to God. That should cost us something)

2 And do not be conformed to this world, (to the society that we live in) but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (We renew our minds feeding on God's word ... we should be totally different)

Romans 12:1 (Message)

1 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: **Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.** **Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.**

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

2 **Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.**

Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

So ... we are not supposed to "come to the cross" and just "park there". We have to get out ... leave this world's way!

1 John 2:1-6 (NKJV)

1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And **if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

2 And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.** (He became our propitiation by becoming our Passover)

3 Now **by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** (Put out the leaven ... bring in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth)

4 **He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

6 **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.** (Live like Jesus did!!)

1 John 5:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep (on keeping) His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (They picture an unleavened life)

We walk God's way ... just as Jesus did. We are to have an unleavened life of sincerity and truth. We aren't trying to earn salvation. We are walking towards the promised Land.

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, (the heroes of faith of the previous chapter) let us lay aside (put away) every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (to the finishing line)

2 looking unto Jesus, (our example) the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him (think about Jesus) who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

We are to run the race with endurance ... because we want to get to the finish line. We need to keep going.

So ... in the next few days ... we will be looking for physical leaven ... but the physical leaven is only the symbol ... we need to be looking

for the leaven of sin and malice and evil. We need to be unleavened ... in sincerity and truth.

Let's go back and look at the leaven of false teaching. What we can be deceived by is ... some false teachers in the Church of God!! Things like what is God's True Calendar? Then ... is Passover on the 14th or 15th? Some Church of God people teach that the Sabbath is from sunrise to sunset. And ... you can go on and on. There is the leaven of false teaching all around us. Wrong teaching leads to wrong believing ... leading to wrong actions. That is probably the biggest problem in the Church of God.

Galatians 5:1-4 (NKJV)

1 **Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**

2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. (False teachers were turning up with false teaching)

4 **You have become estranged (severed) from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**

Galatians 5:7-9

7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.

9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. (A little leaven ... a little false teaching ... that you listen to ... can destroy you!)

Galatians 1:6-7 (NKJV)

6 **I marvel (astonished) that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,**

7 which is not another; but **there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

WATCH OUT FOR FALSE TEACHING!!

Matthew 13:24-25 (NKJV)

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

Matthew 13:29-30 (NKJV)

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' " (NB: the wheat and tares are growing together ... until the end time)

Matthew 13:33 (NKJV)

33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid (concealed surreptitiously) in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." (A false church hiding/teaching false doctrines)

2 Peter 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, (leaven like the parable says) even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

3 **By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;**
(leaven) for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their
destruction does not slumber.

2 Timothy 1:13-15 (NKJV)

13 **Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard
from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.**

14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy
Spirit who dwells in us.

15 This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me,
among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. (They turned away ...
little by little ... from Paul ... who was personally chosen by God
... who wrote half of the New Testament)

2 Timothy 3:13-15 (NKJV)

13 **But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse,
deceiving and being deceived.** (Probably among us)

14 **But you must continue in the things which you have learned
and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,**
(The Holy Scriptures ... referring to the Old Testament)

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is
in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable
for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in
righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete,
thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

We have to hold fast to the truth. We need to be alert to two
things: To get sin and compromise out of our lives. And ... to get
deception out, turn away. Hold to the truth once delivered to the
saints.

