

The Lords Supper

- Intro the “Sweets from Heaven event”
- I don’t know if you have noticed, but whenever we want to celebrate something... we think of food...
- Okay, I’m going to name a celebration and you name the food...
 - Easter? (eggs, chocolate)
 - Birthday (cake)
 - Christmas (turkey, etc.. depends a bit on your culture and family) – but generally there is a big meal right?
 - Valentines day (chocolate)
- You might notice that whenever we like to celebrate, we like to eat.
- Think about it!! Name a celebration where there isn’t some form of food?
 - Graduations, anniversaries, year-end functions, baby dedications... there is so often food included if we want to celebrate

Now before those who are visiting judge me too quickly for talking about food, let us all remember that Jesus also loved food...

.... Look up old food sermons

- Now, the teens had a chance to hear some of todays thoughts a few weeks ago at Surge, but today we will go a bit deeper.
 - As you might have seen, todays message is titled... “The Lords Supper”
 - We are going to go on a food journey that has a very important ending point... right here today...
 - Lets pray..
-

Lets start the journey way back on the old testament

- In [Genesis 26](#) there was a fight between Isaac (a descendent of Abraham) and a king called Abimilek – they parted ways... but then Abimilek heard that Isaac was being blessed so he went to meet him
- **Pick up in V26-31**

[26](#) Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. [27](#) Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?”

[28](#) They answered, “We saw clearly that the Lord was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a **sworn agreement** between us’—between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you [29](#) that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the Lord.”

30 Isaac then **made a feast for them**, and they ate and drank. **31** Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they went away peacefully.

- Make an agreement, eat and drink...
- Now there was a special word for this kind of sworn agreement... it was called a “covenant”

Today...a covenant is a Contract, an agreement.

Dictionary

covenant



cov·e·nant

/ˈkɒvənənt/ ⓘ

noun

1. an agreement.

synonyms: contract, agreement, undertaking, commitment, guarantee, warrant, pledge, promise, bond, indenture; More

- The difference between pay as you go and a contract? – the contract you need to pay even if you don't use the phone or it gets stolen. (cant be like...phone stolen... sorry not paying.. – the covenant was... I get phone, you get money... if I lose phone – that was not part of the agreement)
- It is a signed promise that you will give something and you will get something...
- Lets have a look in **Genesis 31..**

Jacob (a descendant of Abraham) Flees From Laban

BACKGROUND

Genesis 31

Jacob Flees From Laban

1 Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." **2** And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been.

3 Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you."

4 So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were. **5** He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me. **6** You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, **7** yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me. **8** If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young. **9** So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.

10 "In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. **11** The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' **12** And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. **13** I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'"

14 Then Rachel and Leah replied, “Do we still have any share in the inheritance of our father’s estate? **15** Does he not regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has used up what was paid for us. **16** Surely all the wealth that God took away from our father belongs to us and our children. So do whatever God has told you.”

17 Then Jacob put his children and his wives on camels, **18** and he drove all his livestock ahead of him, along with all the goods he had accumulated in Paddan Aram,[a] to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

19 When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father’s household gods.

20 Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away.

21 So he fled with all he had, crossed the Euphrates River, and headed for the hill country of Gilead.

Laban Pursues Jacob

22 On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled. **23** Taking his relatives with him, he pursued Jacob for seven days and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. **24** Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.”

25 Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead when Laban overtook him, and Laban and his relatives camped there too. **26** Then Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done? You’ve deceived me, and you’ve carried off my daughters like captives in war. **27** Why did you run off secretly and deceive me? Why didn’t you tell me, so I could send you away with joy and singing to the music of timbrels and harps? **28** You didn’t even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters goodbye. You have done a foolish thing. **29** I have the power to harm you; but last night the God of your father said to me, ‘Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.’ **30** Now you have gone off because you longed to return to your father’s household. But why did you steal my gods?”

31 Jacob answered Laban, “I was afraid, because I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force. **32** But if you find anyone who has your gods, that person shall not live. In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.

33 So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he found nothing. After he came out of Leah’s tent, he entered Rachel’s tent.

34 Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel’s saddle and was sitting on them. Laban searched through everything in the tent but found nothing.

35 Rachel said to her father, “Don’t be angry, my lord, that I cannot stand up in your presence; I’m having my period.” So he searched but could not find the household gods.

36 Jacob was angry and took Laban to task. “What is my crime?” he asked Laban. “How have I wronged you that you hunt me down? **37** Now that you have searched through all my goods, what have you found that belongs to your household? Put it here in front of your relatives and mine, and let them judge between the two of us.

38 “I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks. **39** I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night.

40 This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes. **41** It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. **42** If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you.”

43 Laban answered Jacob, "The women are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. All you see is mine. Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne? 44 Come now, let's make a **covenant**, you and I, and let it serve as a witness between us."

45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. 46 He said to his relatives, "Gather some stones." **So they took stones and piled them in a heap, and they ate there by the heap.**

47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, and Jacob called it Galeed.[b]

48 Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." That is why it was called Galeed. 49 It was also called Mizpah,[c] because he said, "May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other. 50 If you mistreat my daughters or if you take any wives besides my daughters, even though no one is with us, remember that God is a witness between you and me."

51 Laban also said to Jacob, "Here is this heap, and here is this pillar I have set up between you and me. 52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me. 53 May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us."

So Jacob took an oath in the name of the Fear of his father Isaac. 54 He offered a sacrifice there in the hill country and invited his **relatives to a meal**. After they had eaten, they spent the night there.

55 Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then he left and returned home.[d]

Another passage of interest is in **Exodus 24**

Moses getting the 10 commandments and the law on Mount Sinai

BACKGROUND

The Covenant Confirmed

24 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, 2 but Moses alone is to approach the Lord; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

3 When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the Lord has said we will do." 4 Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.

He got up early the next morning and **built an altar** at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve **stone pillars** representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the Lord. 6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey."

8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

9 Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up **10** and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky.

11 But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they **ate and drank**.

12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction."

Through the old testament – we see some key **Elements of a covenant**. Now there is more that we cannot go through now, but you notice...

- Promises / agreements
- Alters / stone pillars
- Changing of **names**

Genesis 17:5

"No longer shall your name be called **Abram**, But your name shall be **Abraham**; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

Genesis 17:15

Then God said to Abraham, "As for **Sarai** your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but **Sarah** shall be her name.

Genesis 32:28

He said, "Your name shall no longer be **Jacob**, but **Israel**; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

Those were in the Old Testament, what about the new testament?

Acts 13:9

But **Saul** became

Matt 16

Simon became...

Elements of a covenant

- Promises / agreements
 - Alters / stone pillars
 - Changing of names
 - **AND EATING A COVENANT MEAL**
-
- Now in the centuries after Moses and Abraham...
 - The covenant between God and his people was celebrated at a key event known as the Passover...

- The Israelites escaped from slavery and became their own free people...
- To over simplify, this celebration signifies the time that the angel of death passed over the houses of the Israelites that were protected by the blood of a blemish free lamb

Deuteronomy 16v1-5

Observe the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover of the Lord your God, because in the month of Aviv he brought you out of Egypt by night. ² Sacrifice as the Passover to the Lord your God an animal from your flock or herd at the place the Lord will choose as a dwelling for his Name.

...

⁵ You must not sacrifice the Passover in any town the Lord your God gives you⁶ except in the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name. There you must sacrifice the Passover in the evening, when the sun goes down, on the anniversary^[a] of your departure from Egypt.

- This was a highlight in the Jewish calendar... and as you can see... it was seen as a religious priority to travel back to Jerusalem in order to celebrate the passover...
- Now...In Matthew 26...Jesus has come to the end of his ministry...and it is indeed that very night... the Passover... where the evening the sun goes down... Israelites returned to Jerusalem sacrifice a lamb...
- And – as you know... he was about to become the sacrificial lamb...
- That would save Gods people from death and slavery once again...
- And he sits down with his disciples... on the night of the Passover...
- And he has a **MEAL** with them...

THE LAST SUPPER!!

Matt 26

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28** This is my blood of the[b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

A **covenant meal** just like in the Old Testament

- But Jesus was **reclaiming the Passover**...
- That the key event in the lives of Gods people was no longer their escape from physical slavery in Egypt...
- But their escape from spiritual slavery...

1 Cor 5v7

Get 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.

- He is the new Passover lamb
- He is the new covenant,,
- And all of this was signified... with a meal...
- Eat and drink... my body... my blood...

Became this became part of Christian life after Jesus

Acts 20:7

On the first day of the week we came together to **break bread**.

Now... already there may be some things that you notice / find strange about communion in church today when compared to back then...

Initially

- Only eaten when disciples were together (not church visitors / friends)
- An actual meal
- Treated with great reverence

After a while people started getting confused about the covenant meal

- Not waiting for each other
- Rich and poor eating separately
- And not eating it with the right heart...(loss of reverence)

For us today...

- Meal?
- Friends in room together?
- Okay... as long as the **heart** is right...

And what is the right heart all about?

Lets go back to the covenant...

For those who have given up everything to follow Jesus...

Made him their greatest affection and treasure...

Received forgiveness and submitted to Lordship...

That is the covenant...

1 Cor 10:16

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?
And is not the bread that we break a **participation in the body of Christ**?

- If you are not yet in a covenant with Jesus...
- If you have not yet submitted to his rule and reign in your life... is the covenant meal for you?
- No...

- Now can you be working towards it?... yes!!
- Can you get help to understand the covenant better?...yes!!
- But is communion a time where you get relief for all the bad things you have done?
- No...
- When we focus so much on the forgiveness part...
- We lose the heart that Jesus was the second exodus... he freed us from slavery...
- It is a celebration that you are not in the old life and now are in the new life ...
- If you are still in the old life and looking for a panado to ease the pain...
- You have it wrong...

1 Corinthians 11

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

... few verses later

33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together.

34 Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

What is Paul trying to get to... don't take this meal for granted!!

In fact, in his second letter to the same group... he says this..

7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, **8** will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? **9** If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

...

15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. **16** But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- Let us eat the communion meal in a worthy manner
- Let us remember that we were once slaves to sin and are no longer
- And let those of us that want to enter the covenant... seek God with all their hearts..
- For when you seek... you find

- Amen...