

Lesson 53 Matthew 26.26-29 Jesus teaching on the "LORD'S SUPPER "

Element No.1-His body broken

While they were eating Jesus took "the bread". We have to say that it must have been the order of Jesus that a sizeable piece of bread be left by Him which might be broken. This bread he now raises as if to commence a further meal. His blessing was probably traditionally Jewish but in lifting this bread he was drawing attention to the Son of Man being lifted up to save. It was Christ taking flesh that first made possible the interposition of a divine substitute for man. He brake it and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, Eat, this is my body,"

Element No.2-His blood shed

And He took the little cup and gave a blessing and gave it to them with the words, "Drink from it, all of you for this is my blood of the New Testament which is freely poured out concerning many for the forgiveness of sins. Here we have a first ever distinct reference to the New Testament-a total departure from the Jewish regime together with an "inclusive many" which involved the whole Gentile church.

Element No 3.-Expectation of Christ's return

I tell you that I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until I drink it "new" with you in the Kingdom of the Father. The reference to the LORD coming back as King to reign in the latter days when the Father again is pleased to bring His covenant people to seek Him is quite special. It tells us that the Old Testament people will eventually become a New Testament people and the model of this celebration that Christ here uses will regain its relevance in that day.

Element No 4-the Joy of Fellowship and Prayer

And they sung a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. The Psalms scholars have long associated with this time are Psalms 113- 118. The disciples accompanied the LORD to the Olivet prayer retreat where the betrayer had presumed or overheard Jesus would resort. Had this been Passover night proper none would have stirred from the great house in Jerusalem but awaited to morning light. It was the day prior-Nisan 13

From paper to practice.

What are the four essential elements in communion?

Do we recognise them in the modern service of communion?

