

Live by Me

(Sermon Notes)

By Warren Zehrung 4/29/2016

Today is the Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is a solemn Feast Day – a High Day. We have eaten Unleavened Bread for the last seven days. We have **not** eaten any **leavened** Bread for the last seven days. This pictures putting sin out of our lives, and today, especially, it pictures coming completely out of sin.

But more importantly, the eating of **Unleavened Bread** pictures...

(Let's leave that blank for a moment...) We will be speaking about the meaning of the day.

Exodus 12:15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

That is a very serious admonition from Christ. Certainly, leavening is symbolic of sin, and we do have to completely avoid leavening during this week. Taking it a step farther, we absolutely do have to strive against sin, and get rid of it wherever it is found in our lives.

Exodus 12:16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, [That was last Sabbath] and in the seventh day [Today] there shall be an holy **convocation** to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, except that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

Exodus 12:17 And ye shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; **for in this selfsame day** have I brought your armies **out** of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.

The fundamental reason that God gives for this Feast is found in verse 17, beginning with the word "for": "**for** on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt."

The reason for this Feast is to memorialize **God's deliverance**. And because it is a Feast, God intends for it to be a time of rejoicing.

The bread that we eat this feast is somewhat different compared to what we eat on God's other Feasts. We read - down a bit:

Exodus 12:41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the **selfsame** day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD **went out** from the land of Egypt.

The Israelites left out under a bright full moon to travel by.

Exodus 12:42 It is a **night to be much observed** unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

Exodus 12:51 And it came to pass the **selfsame** day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

This Feast is an appointed time for us to remember **God's deliverance**. When Egypt is a type of sin, Pharaoh is a type of Satan.

Physical Israel kept this Feast as a **memorial** of God delivering them from Egypt, while we, spiritual Israel, keep it as a **memorial** of an even greater, **spiritual deliverance** from the **power of darkness** Satan and his agents.

That is a battle that we are utterly unable to fight for ourselves.

Colossians 1:13 informs us that **God** "has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

Galatians 1:4 says that Jesus Christ “gave Himself for our sins, that He might **deliver us** from this present evil age”.

This Feast – the Last Day of Unleavened Bread – pictures our deliverance – just as assuredly ancient Israel escaped Egyptian bondage today. There is no way that we could begin to mount a **defense** against Satan on our own – let alone mounting an **offense** against him. The only answer is, “That He, Jesus Christ, might **deliver us...**” (Galatians 1:4)

Our **deliverance** is an indescribable and rare blessing. And like with Israel, it is only because of what **God has done**, not us.

But, Brethren, keep this in mind: Without the Unleavened Bread of **Life in us**, we have no means to overcome this present evil world, or Satan, let alone ourselves.

This Feast is a **memorial** – that means we are to recall and remember the lessons of this day. And let’s not forget that we are Manasseh and – that Manasseh means **forgetful**. That is why God has us observe these days every year – to remember. How appropriately we are named!

Exodus 12:18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

Exodus 12:19 Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eats that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

Exodus 12:20 Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall **ye eat unleavened bread**.

We will see that the weight of the Scriptures is not so much on “eating nothing leavened,” but the emphasis is on **“you shall eat unleavened bread**.

Exodus 14:8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an **high hand**.

They had money and freedom! Israel did have instructions to follow, and they had to walk, but it **was not** by their efforts that they “came out from Egypt.” That is what we have to remember. On this day in history, Israel crossed the Red Sea and came completely out of Egypt. But they had help, didn’t they? They could never have escaped from Egypt on their own.

God did not escort Israel to the far side of the Red Sea, and then leave it up to them to find their way to the Promised Land. Neither does God leave us to fend for ourselves when it comes to preparing to inherit His Kingdom and overcoming sin along the way. Do we understand that God is there for us?

The question is whether we trust Him enough to follow His lead, or whether we will try to find our own way. It was Jesus Christ, the God of the Old Testament who made it possible for them to leave Egypt by destroying their enemy.

Exodus 14:22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Exodus 14:23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Exodus 14:24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the **pillar of fire** and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians.

Exodus 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by **night in a pillar of fire**, to give them light; to go by day and night:

That was a visual manifestation showing that Jesus Christ was with them continually.

Exodus 14:25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.

That pillar of fire was Jesus' presence with the Israelites. Israel came out only because of God's direct intervention and deliverance. But here is the question we must consider today.

Why did Jesus Christ remain with Israel after they were safely on the other side of the Red Sea, and the Egyptians were so broken as to constitute no threat to them at all? After all, Israel was finally able to stand on their own two feet at that point having come completely out of Egypt.

Why did Jesus Christ continue to **be with Israel** on their trek through the wilderness toward the Promised Land? Nehemiah gives us a glimpse into the answer:

Nehemiah 9:19 Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

Nehemiah 9:20 Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

Nehemiah 9:21 Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

So we see the answer as to why Jesus did not abandon Israel after they were safely out of Egypt. Israel still would not have survived without continual guidance and sustenance. They could not make it on their own.

These lessons are even more important for the New Testament Church than they were for ancient Israel. Brethren, the answer is the same for us. Coming out of sin this week is not enough for us. We still cannot begin to make it **on our own**.

Sometimes we get to thinking:

"I won't sin. I must overcome. I must stand against Satan and evil. I must put sin out of my life. I must fight the Christian battle."

And all of those are certainly true – but there is a terrible self-pride there. This attitude lacks the recognition that it is Christ alone who delivers us from sin. There will be no glorying in God's presence over our own works. When we stand before Jesus' judgment seat, we will not be able to take the credit of having saved ourselves.

Romans 14:10, 12 ... For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

That is not the way that it works. Rather, God is pleased to give the Kingdom to those who are victorious **through** working with Him, and His achievements in us – which is the only way we can be victorious.

These Holy Days of Unleavened Bread picture coming completely out of sin...

But they picture something greater... And that is that (Like ancient Israel) we are totally **unable** to achieve any of those things – on our own. Our human spirit is entirely too weak and insufficient for the task.

Colossians 1:27 ... Christ in you, - that is the hope of glory:

We must be abiding in Christ (John 15). The Feast of Unleavened Bread shows us that just accepting Jesus' sacrifice to pay for our sins is not enough.

The name of the Feast of **Unleavened Bread** gives us a clue to what God intends our focus to be. Primarily, we must **focus on the unleavened bread**.

Every day this past week we have all picked up a portion of unleavened bread with a meal.

Did you hearken back in your mind to the piece of Unleavened Bread – representing Jesus' body - that you ate on Passover night a week ago?

That is why we've been eating **Unleavened Bread** all week.

When we understand the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we will understand what it means to follow after righteousness. We put on Christ by following after righteousness.

Romans 13:14 Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,...

These Days of Unleavened Bread picture our putting sin out of our lives **so that** we might put on the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Today is a solemn assembly to the Lord thy God. (Deuteronomy 16:8)

The Biblical picture goes far beyond having been Unleavened for the last seven days – as far as bread is concerned.

The problem is that in these Laodicean times – far too many of our brethren have been more concerned with putting the physical leaven out of our **homes** – than in removing the spiritual leaven within our lives **AND** putting Jesus Christ into our lives.

Unleavened Bread pictures the perfect righteousness of Sincerity and Truth – and that is Jesus Christ.

1Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, **as ye are unleavened**. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Paul told the Corinthian Church members, that they were **unleavened!**

How could the sinful Corinthians be unleavened? I do not believe that you could find a more sinful bunch in the Scriptures! Paul was writing to a pretty carnal group, and yet even with the carnality, he still tells them in verse :7, "you truly are unleavened."

It is another way of saying that **righteousness was imputed to them on the basis of Christ's sacrifice**.

Paul was basically telling them that because they truly are unleavened, they need to start living and behaving like it. Jesus Christ's righteousness was imputed to them, and now they needed to conform to it so that it became a essential part of them.

They were to keep the Feast not only with real unleavened bread, but also with the spiritually "unleavened" Jesus Christ who is sincerity and truth.

This applies equally to us today: Jesus was sacrificed in our stead, and we in turn have **His righteousness** imputed to us. We cannot live by our own righteousness – it is nothing.

1Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The unleavened bread of sincerity and truth is Jesus Christ. That is the way to read this verse. How do we have Jesus become an integral part of us?

2Corinthians 5:21 He [God the Father] hath made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that **we might be made** the righteousness of God in Him.

In the same way that God made Jesus to be Sin, He has made us to be Righteous. God in turn, substitutes the righteousness of Jesus to us! God the Father made Jesus Christ, who never sinned, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

These days picture – with precision – that **it is** Jesus who is leading us out of spiritual Egypt. However, we must remember the lessons of having been in sin – and so still we can eat nothing leavened, for we know that leaven is a symbol of sin.

That is why God commands His people to eat unleavened bread during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Exodus 12:15, 19-20; Leviticus 23:6). It symbolizes putting on Jesus Christ and His righteousness.

Colossians 2:6-7 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk ye in Him**: Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Walk ye in Him, how do we do that – what does **walk ye in Him**, mean? Being rooted in Christ, means that we embrace His doctrine, His principles, His teachings, and His values.

We consciously and continuously ask God to guide our every thought and action – to be in accord with His will – His way – His perfect standard.

A deep-rooted connection to Christ includes trusting in all of His words, and greatly appreciating the forgiveness He earned for us.

It also includes looking to God in faith, realizing our total dependence on our Creator while demonstrating the fruits of God's Holy Spirit, and expressing true Christianity through good works.

When we are rooted in Christ, it means that we **know** His ways, and love His ways more than our own way of doing things. That is the ways of the world that we've actively been trying to eradicate from ourselves this past week.

And we do not stop eradicating sin from our lives today – but we realize the supreme importance of having Christ live in us to guide deliver, save and motivate God's will in our lives.

If only we could see that **pillar of cloud** by day and pillar of fire by night before our eyes. But we have received a greater motivator – Jesus Christ **in us** through His Spirit.

John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

That is Jesus Christ in us through His Spirit. He is the Comforter. He is the one who saves and delivers.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him**, and make our abode with him.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the **Holy Spirit**, which the Father will send in my name, it shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, which I will send unto you from the Father, even the **Spirit of truth**, which proceeds from the Father, it shall testify of me:

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send it unto you.

John 16:8 And when it is come, it will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Only God and Jesus Christ through their Spirit, who are able to save us. Spiritually, our responsibility is to overcome, and to not let sin reign in our mortal bodies.

But, again, that is not enough – we must have Christ in us guiding, strengthening and performing every move we make. His principles, morals, values, law, and love must be instilled in us.

We eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood. There is an old saying, "We are what we eat." And in this case it is true. That is exactly what we did a week ago – at Passover. That is what Jesus meant by these words:

John 6:54 Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

John 6:56 He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him.

In the same way that Jesus must dwell in us, The Father had to dwell with Jesus on earth.

John 14:10-11 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me:

John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

John 6:56 He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him.

We come to the verse containing the **Title of today's sermon**:

John 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eats me, even he shall **live by me**.

We are totally unable to overcome sin by our own strength. Do not try to do it. We do not; and cannot live by ourselves, our own will and might, that is why Jesus says, "**Live by me.**"

To attempt putting sin out by our own strength of will, is to imply that we can overcome on our own...and thus that we don't need a Savior. That is simply **self-righteousness** and **self-glorifying**, to focus on our own efforts. We must abide in Christ – and He in us. That is why we are eating Unleavened Bread – this is what it pictures.

Following Christ as He leads us to the Kingdom of God is the essential outline of how to live as a Christian. When we model our lives after the perfect life of our Savior, Jesus Christ, He will bring us to eternal life in His Kingdom, which is far superior to the physical Promised Land that the Israelites sought.

Abiding in Christ is subject to our continuing to eat the unleavened bread – in attitude, in motivation, in our every value, moral, principle – we emulate the life of Jesus Christ.

This promise of eternal life is contingent on our eating Jesus Christ's flesh through taking in His Word fully – and then – with Christ's help – living unequivocally by every word of God.

Putting this all together, the spiritual strength we require to overcome is solely the result of eating the **Unleavened Bread of Life** continually, and that is only available to those of us whom He has delivered from spiritual Egypt.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and **find grace to help** in time of need.

It is not failure on our part to seek God's help – that is the way it is designed to work! Jesus chose to be our Savior – and His work is not yet complete in us. On this Last Day of Unleavened Bread, let's renew our resolve to have Jesus Christ live in us.

In closing: Speaking of the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and truth:

John 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eats of **this bread** shall live forever.

End: Live By Me