

DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY

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The Passover is tomorrow evening! Shortly after sunset.

We have already done an overview on the Passover Wine.

Hopefully, you are well aware there are two parts to the Passover ... originally: the Blood of The Lamb ... and eating The Body of The Lamb. Now: in the New Testament we have the wine ... and the broken bread. Two distinct parts to the Passover. Both parts are vitally important to us.

Today ... we will review the 2nd part ... for you and me ... the Bread.

Exodus 12:5-13 (NKJV)

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. (*Between the two evenings*)

7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. (*Eat ... partake ... digest*)

9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails.

10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, (daybreak) and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

11 And **thus you shall eat it**: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So **you shall eat it** in haste. (*Trepidation*) **It is the Lord's Passover.**

12 "For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

13 Now **the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are.** And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Two parts ... the Blood and The Body ... eating the lamb ...which if you don't do ... you aren't eating The Lord's Body. It is a key part of The Passover ... not just an afterthought.

Exodus 12:8 (NKJV)

8 Then **they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread** and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Exodus 12:43-50 (NKJV)

43 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "**This is the ordinance of the Passover:** No foreigner shall **eat it.**

44 But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may **eat it.**

45 A sojourner and a hired servant shall not **eat it.**

46 In one house **it shall be eaten**; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, **nor shall you break one of its bones.**

(Jesus' bones were not broken)

47 All the congregation of Israel shall **keep it.** (*To keep the Passover ... you need to splash the blood ... and **EAT THE LAMB!!***)

48 And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and **keep it**; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall **eat it.** (*You have to **eat** the lamb to **KEEP THE PASSOVER***)

49 One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”

50 Thus all the children of Israel did; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

So ... splashing the Blood is just part of the Passover. For us ... taking the Wine is just part of the Passover.

Accepting Jesus' Blood for the forgiveness of sins is just part.

We need to understand the whole picture if we're to take part in the Passover in a right manner.

Numbers 9:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying:

2 “Let the children of Israel **keep the Passover at its appointed time.**

3 **On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time.** **According to all its rites and ceremonies you shall keep it.”** *(A package of rites and ceremonies ... not just killing the Lamb. NB: ON THE 14TH!! ... That's when The Lord passed over)*

4 So Moses told the children of Israel that **they should keep the Passover.**

5 **And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, at twilight,** in the Wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did.

Numbers 9:9-12 (NKJV)

9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

10 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord's Passover.

11 On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

12 They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it. (*You have to eat the Passover to keep the Passover*)

It is not enough to just kill the Lamb. The death of the lamb is vital ... but not all there is ... not the whole Passover. To keep the Passover ... you have to eat the Passover ... which requires you to eat the lamb. (*Which is the main part/activity for most of the people*)

Not many people seem to understand the significance of the body? A lot of people are familiar with Jesus' shed blood ... but what about Jesus' body?

Mark 14:12-16 (NKJV)

12 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed (*were killing*) the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?"

13 And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him.

14 Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'

15 Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us."

16 So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover. (*The Passover is more than just slaying a lamb*)

Mark 14:22-24 (NKJV)

22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "*Take, eat; this is My body.*"

23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 And He said to them, "*This is My blood of the new covenant,* which is shed for many.

There were two parts to the original Passover ... there are still two parts to keeping the Passover today. Two emblems ... The wine to represent the shed blood ... for the forgiveness of our sins. Now we will look at the bread representing The Lamb's body. We covered the wine/blood last week.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV)

23 For I received from the Lord (*wasn't second hand ... wasn't hearsay*) that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "*Take, eat; this is My body which is *broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.*" (**not in the NASB, NIV, RSV... but it is in the good Greek manuscripts*)

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (*A memorial of the death of The Lord Jesus ... once per year!!*)

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 (NKJV)

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. (*"Unworthy manner": Phillips: "without due thought".*

The Message: "irreverently")

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. (*Dying prematurely when they shouldn't be! They are not taking the Passover properly*)

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, (*by God*) we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

We should judge/evaluate ourselves at all times ... not just at the Passover. If we see something that's not right ---> take action! Don't just ignore it ... you may be judged.

What does the broken bread ... Jesus' broken body picture? What's the teaching? What lessons can we learn? I think there is a hint in Psalms.

Psalms 105:26-38 (NKJV)

26 He sent Moses His servant,

And Aaron whom He had chosen.

27 They performed His signs among them,

And wonders in the land of Ham. (*Egypt*)

28 He sent darkness, and made it dark;

And they did not rebel against His word.

29 He turned their waters into blood,

And killed their fish.

30 Their land abounded with frogs,

Even in the chambers of their kings.

31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
And lice in all their territory.

32 He gave them hail for rain,
And flaming fire in their land.

33 He struck their vines also, and their fig trees,
And splintered the trees of their territory.

34 He spoke, and locusts came,
Young locusts without number,

35 And ate up all the vegetation in their land,
And devoured the fruit of their ground.

36 He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land,
The first of all their strength.

37 He also brought them out with silver and gold,

And there was none feeble among His tribes. *(They were all now strong and vigorous! A miracle!! How come? What had they done to bring that about? I will suggest that is what eating The Passover Lamb is all about ... we can have the same outcome today when we take The Passover)*

38 Egypt was glad when they departed,
For the fear of them had fallen upon them.

They had ALL EATEN THE PASSOVER LAMB. So does Jesus' body bring healing?

Psalms 105:37 (GOOD NEWS BIBLE)

37 Then he led the Israelites out;
they carried silver and gold,

and all of them were healthy and strong. *(Because they had eaten the Passover Lamb)*

Psalms 105:37 (NLT)

37 The Lord brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; **and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled.**

Isaiah 52:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Behold, My Servant (*Jesus in prophecy*) shall deal prudently;
He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

14 Just as many were astonished at you,
So His visage was marred more than any man,
And His form more than the sons of men;

Isaiah 52:14-15 (NET)

14 (just as many were horrified by the sight of you)

He was so disfigured he no longer looked like a man;

15 His form was so marred he no longer looked human

Talking prophetically of Jesus. But why? Jesus died ... shed His blood ... for our sins ... but death can be sudden and instantaneous? So why the beating ... suffering ... disfigurement?

Isaiah 53:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,

And as a root out of dry ground.

He has no form or comeliness;

And when we see Him,

There is no beauty that we should desire Him. (Jesus physically looked like an ordinary guy)

3 He is despised and rejected by men,

A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 **Surely He has borne our griefs** (*Choliy ... Appears 24 times and means "sickness and diseases"*)

And carried our sorrows; (*Makob ... Means pain ... physical or mental and emotional pain*)

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:4 (NRSV)

4 Surely **He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases.**

Isaiah 53:4 (CJB)

4 In fact, **it was our diseases He bore, our pains from which He suffered.**

Isaiah 53:4 (HCSB)

4 **Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains;**

Isaiah 53:4 (YOUNGS LITERAL TRANSLATION)

4 **Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains--he hath carried them,** And we---we have esteemed him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

It could apply to emotional and mental well-being (which is included) ... but primarily points to physical healing.

We can verify the accuracy of the NRSV, CJB, etc in the New Testament.

Matthew 8:14-17 (NKJV)

14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.

15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And ***He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,***

17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.” (Quoting Isaiah 53:4 under inspiration)

This is scriptural truth. Jesus took away our sicknesses and diseases. When did Jesus take away our sicknesses and diseases? At breakfast one morning ... whilst He was climbing hills ... when He was walking on the water? NO! AT HIS CRUCIFIXION! ... when He gave His body to be beaten ... scourged ... suffer pain and weakness. Healing is part of Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice ... as our Passover Lamb.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV)

4 ***Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;***

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But ***He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;***

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed. (by Jesus stripes ... we are healed ... (NASB) "And by His scourging we are healed")

Isaiah 53:5 (NET)

5 ***He endured punishment that made us well; because of His wounds we have been healed.***

Isaiah 53:5 (NASB)

5 ***by His scourging we are healed***

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Jesus' body was beaten ... ripped ... torn (separate from His shed blood and death).

There are 2 parts to His sacrifice:

- ° His body was broken (though not His bones)
- ° His blood shed to death

Jesus' blood purchased our forgiveness from sin ... and deliverance from the death penalty. Jesus' wounds ... giving His body to be scourged ... purchased our physical healing. Two parts!

1 Peter 1:17-21 (NKJV)

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 **but *with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.***

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1 Peter 2:19-24 (NKJV)

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

21 **For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:**

22 **"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";**

23 **who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

24 **who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.** (Greek: *iaomai* ... "healed" all 28 times it appears in the New Testament) (This is Peter quoting Isaiah 53:5)

It seems that God wants us to be well? And He has made provision for miraculous healing for us ... as part of the Passover package.

We shouldn't treat healing lightly. We have a part to play ...mindful of our diet ... sleep ... exercise ... stress ... drugs ... etc. But ... if we break physical laws ... or suffer because others have broken them ... it's good to know then ... that we have the benefit that Jesus has paid the penalty for us.

If we read the Gospel accounts ... physical healing has always been a key part of the message (just as much as preaching forgiveness of sins) ... though you'd hardly know that from listening to most preachers!

Mark 16:15-20 (NKJV) (NB: These verses appear in approx 99% of all Greek manuscripts)

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Laying on of hands and healing is part of the Gospel)

19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Healing is good news. And yet ... most church people overlook it. But ... it is a key part of Church life.

James 5:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save ("sozo" ... save or heal) the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:15 (NLT)

15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

James 5:15 (Weymouth New Testament)

15 And **the prayer of faith will restore the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up to health;** and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven.

Psalms 103:1-5 (NKJV) Don't forget the benefits! Two parts.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:

3 **Who forgives all your iniquities,** (*because of Jesus shed blood*)

Who heals all your diseases, (*because of Jesus broken body ... both of these are part of The Passover*)

4 **Who redeems your life from destruction,**

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

5 **Who satisfies your mouth with good things,**

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Same Jesus. Same event. Same suffering. Paid for both salvation and for our healing.

Most people only hear about the blood ... spiritual salvation ... so that is all they believe in. Few hear about the broken body and healing. Yet ... faith comes by hearing ... and hearing ... and hearing ... and hearing.

God announced early on to His covenant people that He was their Healer.

Exodus 15:26 (NKJV)

26 and said, **"If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on**

you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you. ("I am" ... not ... "I was")

Tomorrow ... many of us will take the Passover. Part will be the broken bread. It is good to think about what Jesus went through during those many hours ... being punched ... beaten ... struck with rods ... whipped and scourged ... hanging on nails for hours ... in pain ... to REDEEM US FROM OUR SICKNESSES AND DISEASES.

We should dwell on that. Be thankful for what Jesus has purchased as Psalm 103 said ... "forget not all His benefits".

However: there has to be a warning at this point. Unfortunately ... all is not well in the Churches of God. There is an alternative view amongst some Churches of God ... that you need to watch out for.

They do not teach that His body was beaten for our healing. They teach that the broken bread pictures the broken scattered Church of God. So ... you'll be told by these ministers ... "don't think about Jesus' body being beaten ... scourged ... and that by His stripes you are healed. Think instead about the scattered condition of the Church of God ... be sure you're not contributing to that scattered condition".

This particular teaching came into the Church of God shortly after the death of HWA. It was introduced by Joe Tkach Senior (but was already an established teaching in the Protestant world).

Mr Tkach agreed that the bread represented the Body of Christ ... but then said the Body of Christ here ... represented the Church. So ... when we take the bread at Passover ... rather than meditating on Jesus' physical body ... His actual body torn and scourged ... the body that actually died ... we should meditate on the brethren in the Church ... make sure we're loving each other.

So ... his conclusion and that also of these other ministers: do not think about Jesus physical bloodied body and pain and suffering He went through! Think about your scattered brethren!

No! Appalling!! Disgraceful!! To me that is absolutely taking Passover in an unworthy manner ... not discerning even remotely the true meaning of the Lord's Body. I would not want to attend any Passover service that was set up in that way. No wonder many would be "weak and sick among you" ... failing to discern the Lord's Body broken for their healing.

Joe Tkach on I Cor 11 ... "If they had understood, then they would have seen that by taking the bread they expressed love for the Church."

Another minister ... who "runs his own church" ... says that when we take the Passover bread ... "Let's not think about the Lord's dead body ... it's how we are getting along with our brothers ... the whole church. Think about the brethren, scattered, lonely ... "
(paraphrased, not verbatim).

Well. There's certainly nothing wrong with thinking about how powerless the Churches of God seem to be ... the division and disunity ... and desiring and praying for better days. That's a great sentiment ... and anything we could do to help each other is worth doing.

But that's not the Passover message!! The Passover message is about the Passover Lamb. Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. In 2 parts ... the body and the blood.

I personally think it would absolutely dishonour Jesus if we ignored His physical beating and punishment when we take the broken bread

(and remember ... Jesus broke the bread Himself at His last Passover ... for us).

Don't confuse Jesus' literal body (one of flesh ... one today of spirit in Heaven ... His real body) with the figure of speech that Paul sometimes used of the Church being the "Body of Christ" ... that's a picture. But the body that was scourged and beaten and torn and shed blood and died ... was Jesus' actual body.

This truth was well-understood for many many decades in the Church.

In the old booklet, "The Plain Truth about Healing" ... speaking of I Corinthians 11 states, "this is important: understand the meaning of what was written here! Taking the broken unleavened bread means we accept Christ's beaten and broken body ... that we may be healed".

In the Passover letter sent out for many decades: "The one conducting the service will remove the napkin from over the bread and wine, and bowing head, give thanks and ask God in prayer to bless the bread, as a symbol of His body, broken for us (for physical healing)".

I don't know how many Churches of God teach that Passover is about church unity ... but quite a few. So WATCH OUT! I believe it's absolutely wrong!

1 Corinthians 11:23-30 (NKJV)

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; *this is My body* which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in My blood.* This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you *eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. (*Dying prematurely*)

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 (MSG)

29 If you give no thought (or worse, don't care) about *the broken body of the Master* when you eat and drink, *you're running the risk of serious consequences.*

30 That's why so many of you even now are listless and sick, and others have gone to an early grave.

1 Corinthians 11:29 Living Bible (TLB)

²⁹ For if he eats the bread and drinks from the cup unworthily, *not thinking about the body of Christ and what it means,* he is eating and drinking God's judgment upon himself; for he is trifling with the death of Christ.

It's not long now! Let's remember we're proclaiming the Lord's Death till He comes. It is a sober and meaningful evening. Don't take it lightly.

I wish you a blessed Passover tomorrow evening and Night to Be
Much Remembered on Monday evening.