

'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'

(The Life of Christ Series)

Gospel of Luke

The 'Love-Feast'

Thanksgiving and the Lord's Supper happening so close together this year reminds me of the early Church's periodic special holiday meal called the *love feast*. It was discontinued in the first century because of abuses that happened during it (*1 Corinthians 11:18-22, 27-30; Jude 12; 2 Peter 2:13-14*), but it was a good idea until those controlled by Satan spoiled it and necessitated ending it. The idea was to come together at the end of the Lord's Day for a meal together (similar to the Last Supper Passover of Jesus with His disciples (*Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17*) and conclude it with the Lord's Supper (*communion/ as Jesus did with the 12, the night before He went to the cross to be our Savior*). It was a great way to end the Lord's Day (*Sunday / 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Revelation 1:10*) because much of the early church was made up of poor believers who were slaves and had to work until the end of the day, then come later joining others in a kind of *pot-faith* meal called *the love feast*; so called because those more affluent shared their food with those who had little or nothing to bring to the meal.

After all had eaten and fellowshiped together, *the Lord's Supper* would be served as the culminating finale to the day. Due to some not waiting for the poor and eating up most of the best dishes first (*1 Corinthians 10:17-22*); since it provided an environment for false teachers to infiltrate the meal to spread their false teaching corrupting and leading any new or weak brethren astray to be their followers (*Jude 12-13*); and due to the fact that some lusty souls even sought to make social contact with weak congregation members with the intention of establishing immoral relationships (*2 Peter 2:13-14*), the *love feast* was discontinued in the Apostolic Era. It appears to have been determined that to protect the sanctity of *the Lord's Supper*, disconnection of a *love feast* was necessary to protect the spiritual health and life of the congregation.

Thus, it is probably about as ideal as possible that this year Thanksgiving came on Thursday with the Lord's Supper today (*Sunday*). Although the two are no longer connected and we have ordinary fellowships separate from *the Lord's Supper*, both need a few words of caution so each can continue to be a blessing to God and to the church family. Both still come with the warning to beware of the enemy's constant attempts to corrupt the fellowship through false brethren among us who have ulterior motives for being among us. Both must always be for the spiritual enrichment of the church family, seeing each as times for drawing nearer to the Lord through remembering Him at communion, and through times of modest holy fellowship together in His presence (*1 Timothy 5:1-2*). Both ought to be kept diligently and regularly as important times of spiritual blessing enlightenment for the 'whole body' of Christ (*getting together for these important functions of 'the body' are expected by the Lord Jesus Christ by those who are called by His Name (Hebrews 10:24-25)*). Both should be attended and participated by 'disciples of Christ' (*disciplined followers of Jesus – please note that only the 12 (11 after Judas' dismissal by Jesus) partook of the original 'Lord's Supper'*). It is very wise and appropriate for both to have participated in by Christians who have taken the time to pray and be filled with the Holy Spirit prior to the event (*Ephesians 5:18-21*, etc.). These are a few thoughts and biblical suggestions to keep the Holy Spirit happy as He sees us before the table of remembrance or in fellowship with one another.

Since this is the December, Christmas time, communion service today, make it an extra special time meditating totally on the Savior and His awesome gift of salvation. Remember with love what Jesus did for you and the day you accepted His priceless gift personally and were blessed with new life in Him. Make communion today a *spiritual love feast of remembrance* of these two marvelous times that qualify you to partake of the bread and the cup today (*1 Corinthians 11:23-32*) **Happy Thanksgiving! Happy 'Lord's Supper'! Happy Lord's Day!**

PtL

'Happy 'Unleavened Living'
(The 'Hypocrisy-Free' Life of True Disciples)
Luke 11:52-12:12

Focus on the Future

(Always looking forward / eternal security)

⁵³ And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, ⁵⁴ lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him. **11:53-54**

*In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. **12:1-3***

Fearless for the Faith

(Always looking inward / internal security)

⁴ "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

⁶ "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

⁸ "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. ⁹ But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

¹⁰ "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven. **12:4-9**

Filled with The Spirit

(Always looking outward / testimonial security)

"And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven." ¹¹ "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. ¹² For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." **12:10-12**