

UNLEAVENED



Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses, for if any one eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Exodus 12:15

We often make the mistake of thinking that because we have seen signs and had experiences of the Kingdom that we're therefore in the Kingdom. So when we get a little nervous about where we stand with God, we reassure ourselves. *"After all, I must be all right with God. Look at all the prayers He has answered. Look at all the miracles I have seen."*

The Israelites in the wilderness said to themselves, *"Why, of course, we're all right with God. Didn't He take us through the Red Sea? Didn't He give us water from the rock? Hasn't He fed us with manna from heaven all this time?"*

But those people never entered the promised land. And there will be many on Judgment Day who will cry;

"Lord! Lord! Don't you remember us? You healed our bodies. You fed 5000 of us with five loaves and two fish. We ate and drank in your presence! You taught in our streets!"

Yet they will be consigned to the outer darkness.

Be clear about this:

- the fact that God has answered some of your prayers,
- the fact that you felt the power of God sweep over you as you stood praising God in the fellowship one night,
- the fact that your body has been healed....

These are signs ... wonderful signs ... signs of God's fathomless love for you.

But you can see signs of the Kingdom and still be outside the Kingdom.

You are in the Kingdom;

- when you know and follow Jesus alive from the dead,
- when you are in Him and He is in you.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

You are in the Kingdom,

- not because you knew Jesus yesterday,
- not because He spoke to you five years ago....

But because you know Him right now, at this moment.

And to know Jesus right now is...

- to know that Jesus is in you and that you are in Him,
- to know that His blood shed twenty centuries ago now covers your sins,
- to know that He is interceding for you before the Father even while He stands in our midst and breathes on us the breath of heaven.

And to know these things there is one absolute requirement, a requirement which is often overlooked.

Everybody there saw Jesus heal the sick, raise the dead, feed the multitude.

Everybody saw Jesus ride into Jerusalem on that donkey.

Everybody who wanted to could go out to Golgotha and watch Him die.

But who saw Jesus after He stepped out of that tomb? Only a very few: Mary Magdalene, the apostles, two disciples on the road to Emmaus, "500 brethren at once."

What was special about those people?

"Why, they were believers!" "They had faith!"

Faith?

- Who had faith after they saw Him crucified?
- Who was expecting Jesus to rise from the dead?
- Did Jesus show Himself to doubting Thomas because he had faith?

Yet, there was one characteristic that marked every single person to whom Jesus made Himself known after He rose from the dead.

Every single one of them was...

without guile

without pretense.

Their lives were not without sin - ***but they were without guile.***

Their last pretenses had been broken when they saw their Master die that awful death. They weren't trying to kid anybody anymore.



It was to these people that Jesus manifested Himself - they were the only ones in all Israel ***who were keeping the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

**Integrity.
Being without guile.**

After the Lord ascended, He continued manifesting Himself to women and men through the Spirit. But again only to certain ones.

- The signs were for everyone.
- But the self-revelation of Jesus Christ was only for those who divested themselves of guile.

For instance: On the day of Pentecost a sign was performed for all in Jerusalem to see. The apostles were out there in the street proclaiming the wonderful works of God in languages they themselves hadn't even heard of. A crowd gathered. All that crowd saw was a sign of the Kingdom, they didn't see the King.

Then Peter stood up and began to speak. And as he spoke certain people in that multitude began to respond to what Peter said by taking off their masks, dropping their pretenses. ***"Brethren, what must we do?"***

They admit their need.

They cry for help.



To these Jesus manifested Himself, enabling them to believe.

Those who received the word were baptized and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

When the Lord showed Himself to Saul of Tarsus, Saul was way off on the wrong track. His heart was loaded with boiling hatred for these disciples of Jesus. But there was one thing about Saul: he was out in the open. He was without guile.

No one has ever met Jesus Christ alive from the dead who was not out in the open. Nor can you continue to have fellowship with Jesus Christ after you put on your mask, and cover your tracks.

The one requirement for meeting Jesus, walking with Jesus, and abiding in Jesus, is that we come out in the open, stay out in the open. That we quit hiding things.

And, there is no one who is more inclined to hide things than the religious person. When we start getting religious we want so badly to be sincere, committed, compassionate, pure, and of deep faith, that every time the opposite qualities appear in our lives we shove them in the closet and lock the door. Or, we get a fancy blanket and toss it over the mess. After a while, we have so many stuffed closets and decorative blankets hiding our sins that we can hardly move or open a door. And every time the wind blows we fly into a panic for fear that our secrets are going to be popping out.

The symbol that Jesus uses for this condition is leaven, that foreign substance you put in dough to make it rise. On the outside that lump of dough looks the same. But once that leaven is in there the dough is no longer pure. The leaven works through that dough - even the smallest amount of it - pervades it with an atmosphere that puffs it up.

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.
Luke 12:1b-3

That leaven of the Pharisees continues to pervade the religious world. No wonder our Master says, "Beware!" This leaven is insidious. It makes its way into our lives without our knowing it. As long as we are in these bodies, we are vulnerable.

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 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. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I Corinthians 5:6-8



How often the phoniest day of the year in the professing Christian churches is Easter. How often the whole thing is a production.

- We dress joyfully.

- We try to sing joyfully, and preach joyfully, and pray joyfully,

... and underneath it all is that leaven.

- The service was beautiful. The music magnificent. The sermon inspiring.

And we walk out the door with a "wonderful feeling" but the leaven is still there. The thing that should have happened when we gathered in Jesus' name didn't happen.

The real refreshment we needed didn't come, because of that leaven.

You can't celebrate the feast with leavened bread.

You can't celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead when you've got things covered up, when beneath the mask of devotion to God the leaven is still at work.

- In order to penetrate beyond the same old "church thing" and really enter the dimension of Heaven,

- In order for us to pass out of the realm of religion and come into the region of divine glory,

...we have to get rid of all the leaven that's still working in our lives.

God will do everything else.

- God will send the Spirit upon us with power.

- God will open our eyes so that we can really see Jesus.

- God will break those chains that bind us to earth.

- God will cause the old things to pass away and make all things new.

- God will send upon us a Spirit of Praise that will lift us into the very company of the angels.

But, we have to get rid of the leaven!

Either we purge it out now or our hidden secrets will be exposed on that Day when it will be too late to clothe ourselves in Christ's blood and righteousness.

For there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. –

Nothing!

It will all come out on that Day when kings and princes will be trying to claw their way into the earth to hide under the rocks from the glaring light of God.

Are we hungry enough for God's righteousness to take off every covering before His glory, open every closet, tear away every mask, remove every screen, and throw open the doors and windows of our hearts to the Spirit of God so that the Spirit can enter any room within us He wants to?



Are we willing to confess to God, this day, every vestige of - lust, pride, greed, bigotry, deceit,

....everything the Spirit puts His finger on?

Are we desperate enough for God's life to make an actual start right now by confessing things to God that we know haven't been pleasing to Him?

"Lord, you know I've been walking around pretending to be right with that brother while I've been wrong - I confess it."

"Lord, you know how my talk of total commitment and my soft, easy, self-indulgent, private life just don't match."

"Lord, you know I've avoided for two years taking that step of faith, telling myself I didn't feel led. But I was led. You showed me. Lord, forgive."

"Lord, you know how I've been nursing injured pride."

"Lord, you know how unbelief has been lurking beneath these words of faith."

"Lord, you know how I've been ashamed to confess the name of Jesus before men."

To every person reading this who yields to the call of the Spirit right now.....

....to come out into the open,

To every person who purges out the leaven, Jesus will come.

- Not the Jesus of sign and symbol.
- Not the Jesus of other men's testimony.
- Not the Jesus of doctrine.

But the Jesus who actually died on that cross, who actually rose from the dead, the Lord who rules with all authority in heaven and on earth,

will come to you afresh,

will manifest Himself to your heart,

will flood your soul with His glorious life.

Will you, right now, lay aside your pride, admit what you are, and draw near to God with a heart that's unleavened?



Prayer: Lord, we admit what we are...people filled with guile. The leaven of hypocrisy, pride, bitterness, self-righteousness, and unbelief are mixed into every aspect of our lives. We can no longer pretend our hearts aren't filled with darkness. We expose our hidden sin to you. We take off these masks. We can no longer go on what we had before with you. We can no longer pretend something's there, that's not. We lay down our pretenses. Take this leaven out of us. Help us, help us ...it's eating us up. It's robbing us of joy and life. We want you to come to us again, to be real to us again. We want to have our hearts filled with you and no guile. We want to truly celebrate with sincerity and truth. So our hearts are unleavened and yes, our souls are flooded with your glorious life instead. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber ... Unknown date...earliest copy dated 2015 but could be earlier.

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WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN