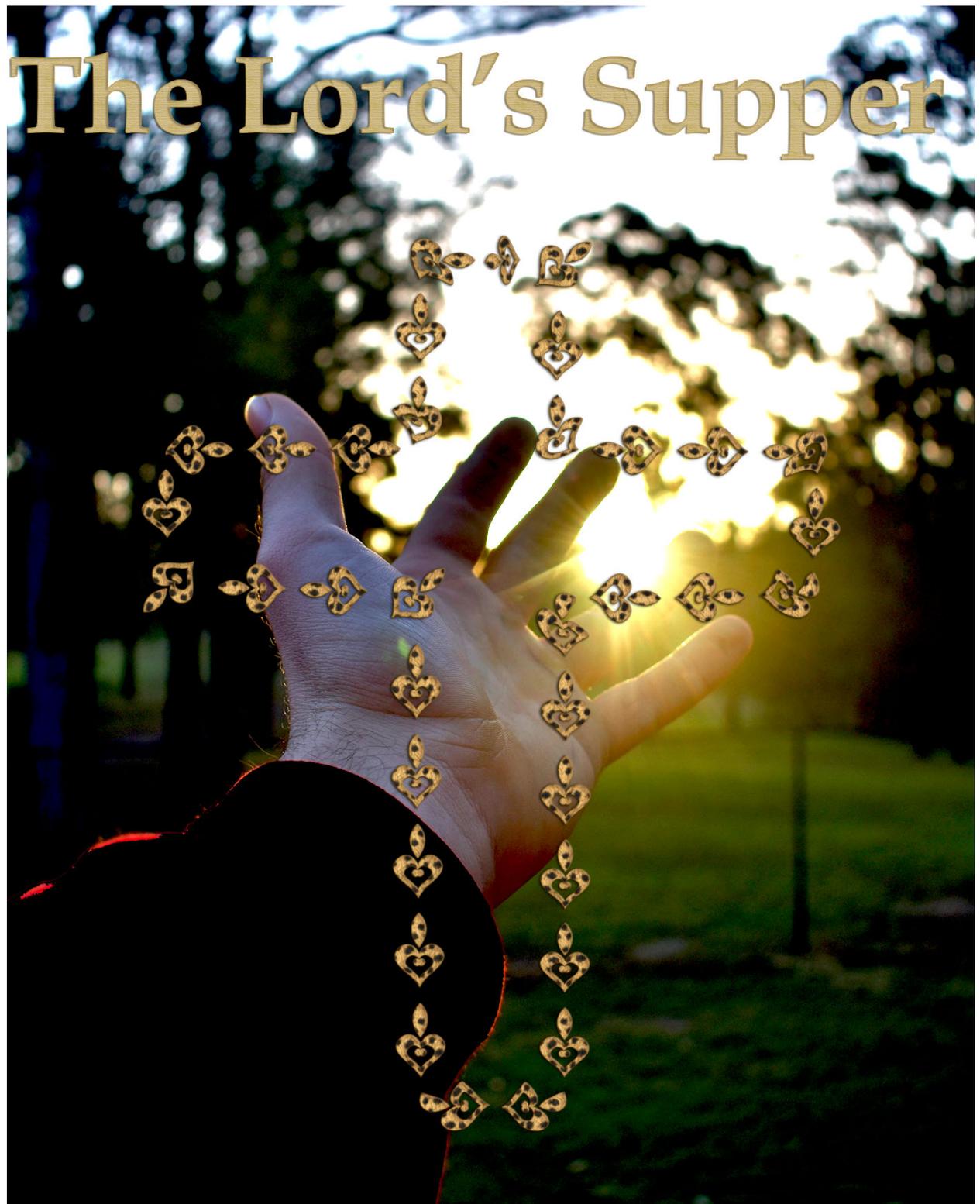


The Lord's Supper



F R A N C K K V A S K O F F

THE LORD SUPPER



The Lord Supper

Franck Kvaskoff

THE LORD SUPPER

Copyright © 2024 Franck Kvaskoff

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, adapted, translated, distributed, or transmitted in any format, or stored in any database, or even any backup system, without the express permission of the author.

Published and distributed free of charge in this Ebook format by The Real Good News Ministry.

Visit our website www.therealgoodnews.org

THE LORD SUPPER

Some other books by Franck Kvaskoff

- How to understand the Bible
- Managing all my Being with my spirit
- Trials, Temptations and Persecutions, do not confuse them
- The Spirit Soul and Body
- And I see it come to pass
- "Heal the sick!" This is not an option
- I Take and I use my Authority
- Faith the compulsory link
- The Great Deception
- The New Birth
- The Person of Jesus Christ
- The Repentance
- The Lord's Supper
- Fasting
- The True colours of satan
- The "Let" and the "That" of the Bible
- Now sit down and Watch
- The Character of God
- The Holy Spirit

THE LORD SUPPER

BIOGRAPHY

Franck became a born-again Christian in 1986 in Brisbane, Australia at the age of 22. It was in 2006 in the south of France that God revealed to him His desire to use him to spread His Gospel. Franck then began to seriously study the Bible, and to write his first Bible studies. It is only 7 years later that he created the ministry The Real Good News in Australia as well as “La Vraie Bonne Nouvelle” in France, after having received a solid training from the Holy Spirit.

Franck does not consider himself a writer, but simply a Christian who recounts what he experiences in his personal life. His books in the form of biblical studies are often enriched with anecdotes from his life wherein he does not hesitate to reveal his mistakes along the way; we also sometimes discover situations with his family. He is a person who places great emphasis on loving his neighbor. This is why Franck likes to pray to heal the sick, but also to teach people to help them enter into autonomy in Jesus. His main goal is to see a Church that uses all that God has given us, but also to see as many people as possible go through the new birth.

THE LORD SUPPER

This is the last meal Jesus had with his apostles. And it is also something that Jesus recommended that we do regularly. Today, in the congregations that teach the New Birth in Jesus Christ, this Holy Communion is celebrated in a way that is often different from one another.

So how, and when, should we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

All those who are born again know the meaning of the Lord's Supper, but do you know it in depth?

Do you know why Jesus took this model from bread and wine? What was His purpose?

Together we will see the details of this celebration, and how we should integrate it and apply it in our lives today. We will also see what the benefits are, because it is not just something we remember. If I have understood the Lord's Supper correctly and practice it in the right way, several important changes will take place in my life.

In the same way that the life of Jesus was the fulfillment of the law, the Lord's Supper was the fulfillment of the Passover instituted by God in Egypt. This is why it is very important to know and understand the different phases and the reason for the Passover celebration.

The Jewish people lived in a condition of slavery during the last 200 years they lived in Egypt, so for many, Egypt was the only country they had ever known. For some, their living conditions were almost normal, as they had never known anything else. Then came the time for a change, the time for a new condition of life for the Jewish people.

To place things in context, we are about 1460 years before the birth of Jesus. Moses had already made the decision to follow God's plan for his life by guiding the people out of Egypt. Several attempts had already been made before

THE LORD SUPPER

Pharaoh, but the king of Egypt, despite the miracles performed by Moses' hand, still refused to let the people go free out of Egypt. It had already been a year since the various plagues hit Egypt, and Pharaoh remained on his decision.

Exodus 11: 9-10 *But the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt." So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.*

Then came the time when God established the Passover. This time was to mark a change, another life, a freedom that did not exist, a new identity for this people.

To do this, they had to take a lamb or a young goat that they would roast over a fire, they had to eat it with bitter herbs and with bread. None of the bones of these animals were to be broken.

Numbers 9: 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.*

All this meal had to be prepared while the people were ready to leave. It was not a relaxing meal like any other meal with family or neighbours. The Jews had to have their belts fastened, their sandals on their feet and their sticks in their hands. Usually, when they had a festive meal, it was usually a time of relaxation. They would take off their shoes, put their sticks at the entrance, and take off their belts to make them more comfortable. But that day, it was different. This Passover meal had to be taken with an attitude of departure, with the thought that things were going to change. There was a strong contrast between the bitterness of herbs and the sweetness of meat with bread, to symbolize that the people would come out of a state of bitterness (slavery) and move towards a new life that God had prepared for them (the promised land). Even if it took the Jews 40 years to reach this destination because of their incredulity, God had kept this land ready, a land promised only a few days' walk away.

We will not dwell too long on the Passover instituted in Egypt, because we will use this example only to show the fulfillment of the Lord's Supper in relation to the original Passover in Egypt and throughout the Old Covenant.

THE LORD SUPPER

Later, we even see that a non-Jewish stranger could join a Jewish family to celebrate the Passover with them. This is something that God had foreseen when He gave the instructions of the first Passover to Moses. It was enough for the stranger to agree to follow the laws and ordinances in order to be able to celebrate this Passover. The number was not limited, Easter was open to all if they agreed to comply with the law, which involved, among other things, circumcising all the males in the foreign family.

Numbers 9: 14 *‘And if a stranger dwells among you, and would keep the Lord’s Passover, he must do so according to the rite of the Passover and according to its ceremony; you shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger and the native of the land.’”*

Exodus 12:48 *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.*

Easter was celebrated once a year, on the 14th of April. This celebration has always been there to mark important times, such as the end of the manna and the beginning of Canaan's food.

Joshua 5: 12 *Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.*

When King Josiah made all the altars and priests dedicated to false gods disappear, the people returned in good disposition towards God, and the first thing was to celebrate the Passover again.

2 King 23: 21 *Then the king commanded all the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.”*

THE LORD SUPPER

The Passover was also celebrated when the children of Israel returned from captivity, following the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar who had taken them away as prisoners to Babylon.

Ezra 6: 19 *And the descendants of the captivity kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.*

Easter is therefore present at every strong moment, at every time of return to God, at every change of situation where the people approach God, at every time God wants to move his people forward in a new dimension. And this rule is also present at the end of Jesus' ministry, it is always the same pattern.

Jesus announced for more than 3 years, a new dimension of things, the fulfillment of the law, eternal life through repentance (for more details on this subject see my study on the New Birth). During these 3 years Jesus taught the Good News. He also trained His apostles who would in turn have the task of teaching, so that from generation to generation, this teaching would continue so that the maximum could reach eternal life.

So we are on the eve of Jesus' arrest. For several weeks the doctors of the law had been planning to have him arrested, and Jesus knew it. But before He voluntarily died on the cross, He had to accomplish one last thing, the Passover. And this time it would not only be in memory of the exit from Egypt, but the entry into a new life, a new spiritual dimension.

This moment should under no circumstances be interrupted by Pharisees, priests, or other disturbances. For this reason, the Bible does not say it, but Jesus certainly contacted a sure man, perhaps one of his good friends, to agree to lend him a room in his house to celebrate the Passover with His apostles. This Passover was truly the culmination of His teaching for the apostles, it was not only to remember that God had brought His people out of Egypt. The family of this house was not invited to participate in the Passover with Jesus. It was not a usual Passover meal, Jesus needed a place where He would not be disturbed, where He could freely give the key to all His teaching to His apostles.

THE LORD SUPPER

Luke 22: 10-12 *And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'" Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."*

It was Peter and John who were commissioned by Jesus to prepare this meal. They had to go buy a lamb, the bread, and all the ingredients, and then go to the temple to sacrifice the lamb. Everything had to be done with caution because the priests and scribes were spying on Jesus' actions and gestures in order to make Him die.

Mark 14:1 *After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death.*

Then at night, Jesus arrived with His apostles in the house for the Passover meal. The first thing Jesus says is that He has been waiting for this moment with them for a long time. Jesus was longing to arrive at this moment, He said that He had waited for it with fervent desire, other translations say "with deep longing", or "earnestly". This meal was to be the validation of all the teaching He had given during these last 3 years to His apostles. We could consider this as the transition from one alliance to another. The apostle Luke is the only one to tell us about Jesus' ardent desire to eat the Passover with his apostles.

Luke 22: 15 *Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;*

This Lord's Supper is often misunderstood, because it is not properly taught or simply not taught. As a result, a large percentage of Christians are not getting the full benefit of this new Passover that Jesus taught that evening.

You will know at the end of this text if this is your case. To those who will recognize themselves in a misuse of the Lord's Supper in relation to this study, I would like to say: "If you have missed this teaching until now, it is because you may not have verified the Scriptures that you were taught, or because you did

THE LORD SUPPER

not take the time to fully understand what is written. And I would like to encourage you now to try to understand before putting it into practice. Feel free to use the team you form with the Holy Spirit, it is His job to teach you (For more details on this subject see my study on the Holy Spirit).

Very often in communities, it is the passage from 1 Corinthians 11 that is quoted. I have never heard anyone bother to explain the context of this passage. However, it is very important because Paul is speaking in this case to people who have totally deviated from the practice of the Lord's Supper. Among other things, some people got drunk, others formed divisions, caused quarrels, and Paul even said that when they got together they got worse. But we will have a closer look at this passage later on.

Peter and John have therefore finished preparing the entire Passover meal. Then everyone arrives to have their dinner, Jesus and the 12 go to the upper room that Peter and John have prepared.

Matthew 26: 20 *When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.*

When it is written "He sat at the table", it does not mean that they were all sitting on a chair around a table. The original word used here is *anakeimai* which means being together having dinner while sitting or lying down. At that same moment John 13: 23 shows us that John was lying on Jesus' chest. One might wonder why then Jesus speaks of a table in Luke 22: 21? A table here describes the meal and the prepared food and not a piece of furniture.

John 13: 23 *Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.*

So the meal was probably taken around the dish, sometimes sitting on cushions, sometimes lying on one side. Yet this was not what God prescribed when He established the Passover. The meal was to be taken with their sandals on, their belts fastened, and their sticks in their hands. It may not be very important, you may say. But there is a lesson to be learned from Jesus' attitude.

At that time, Jews allowed some habits to settle into their Passover meals. It is possible that the fact of having the meal of Easter lying down comes from

THE LORD SUPPER

certain Roman habits, which had already invaded the country for several years. But none of this seemed to bother Jesus. He did not say to Peter and John: "But, there is no table? No chairs?" This is not how your Father asked you to take this meal. The Bible does not mention any reproach in this regard. And when we read verse 23 of John 13, we can even say that Jesus accepted to take the Passover meal under these conditions, because John had his head on Jesus' chest. It is difficult to imagine such a posture when everyone is sitting on a chair around a table.

What I would like to point out is that Jesus was not attached to the pattern of this Passover, whether sitting on a chair or not, around a table or not. Quite often, we Christians today are very attached to the way of taking the Lord's Supper. Some say, "you have to take bread and wine all at the same time". Others say, "We need to have bread baked as in the time of Jesus", and still others say, "The Lord's Supper must be taken in the form of a real meal and not during a service in the church".

At the risk of disappointing some of you, I will say that the form does not matter: during a real meal with brothers and sisters, with wine or grape juice, with Viennese bread or oriental bread... Whatever, the essential thing is to remember the death of Jesus and to appropriate it. That is all that matters, the rest is a waste of time and a source of unnecessary divisions. Jesus did not give any instructions on the format of the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The form does not matter as long as the full meaning of the body and blood of Jesus is integrated into my celebration.

Imagine the example of an Inuit tribe in Alaska. They are also called Eskimos. In winter they mainly eat meat from seals, fish, seabirds, etc. In summer they can also eat wild berries, fruits, eggs, etc. These people have no bread, not to mention grapes to make wine. So if a tribe came to know the Good News, what should they do? Should we send them all to the city so that they can live their Christian lives and celebrate the Lord's Supper?

The answer is NO of course.

It is not so much what I will eat or drink to celebrate the death of Jesus that is essential, but more importantly, it is the state of mind in which I will do it. I am

THE LORD SUPPER

not saying that we should celebrate the Lord's Supper with anything, of course if I am in a place in the world where I have access to bread and vine fruit, I will give priority to these two things. The important thing to remember is that my attitude takes precedence over the kind of food I will take to celebrate the death of Jesus.

Let's go back for a moment to our Passover meal with Jesus and His apostles. Together we will see the different details of the course of this meal, which will help us to better understand each word, each action of Jesus so that everyone can reproduce this celebration in all its power. The Gospel of John apparently does not tell us the story in chronological order, it is important to point it out for a good understanding of each step of this meal.

Jesus and His apostles were eating the lamb, and everyone had to converse or listen to Jesus' words. Then the time came when the Bible says that Jesus was troubled in His spirit.

John 13: 21 *When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."*

John's Gospel is the only one that reveals to us that Jesus was troubled in His spirit. (For more details on this subject see my study on Spirit, Soul and Body). After more than 3 years of ministry, Jesus is coming to the end of His mission. He knew that now it was only a matter of hours before He was arrested and crucified. When it is written that His spirit was troubled, it is not the Holy Spirit we are talking about here, but the spirit that is part of His being "spirit soul and body". It is very important not to mix the two, because in this case you would have a false idea of Jesus as a human being. You'd think He wouldn't have really struggled against His flesh or suffered much.

Then Jesus announces that one of the 12 will soon hand him over. It must have thrown a chill into this meal, because everyone was saddened by this statement. But Jesus knew that this was only the normal course of His mission on earth. He knew He had come to die, and that time was fast approaching.

Peter waved to John, who was very close to Jesus, to ask Him who it was.

THE LORD SUPPER

John 13: 23-24 *Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.*

Jesus clearly designates Judas. But it seems that no one really understood what was happening at the time. Often in the Gospels one gets the impression that the apostles do not understand what is happening, or do not understand some of Jesus' teachings. And it is here again a same situation where Jesus is saying: "Judas will betray me, he will be the instrument of my arrest". And no one seems to object, at least the Bible doesn't mention it. One would have thought that our brother Peter would have opposed this betrayal, but this is not the case. We see that God's plan is being carried out in all its perfection. And even when Satan enters Judas who leaves the room whereas the meal is not finished, no one is surprised, his companions thought that Jesus had sent him to buy extra things for the feast.

John 13: 26-29 *Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.*

Judas has now gone, Jesus is alone with the 11 apostles, He can now reveal and give this new covenant for which He has been teaching for more than 3 years. This is something that Jesus has been waiting for since a long time. This new covenant was to be the starting point of God's grace, a new time, a new area that was beginning and that we are still living today.

Luke 22: 15 *Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;*

Amplified Translation here has an even more 'human' dimension, it says:

Luke 22: 15 *He said to them, "I have earnestly wanted to eat this Passover with you before I suffer"*

THE LORD SUPPER

And Jesus continues his sentence by saying that this would be His last meal on earth with them. The long-awaited moment has arrived. These 3 and a half years of teaching, fighting against Satan's attempts to bring everything down, announcing the arrival of an area of God's grace to all human beings. Jesus did it. All was not yet accomplished because the cross had not yet taken place, but the teaching on earth was now almost finished. All that remained was to seal the new covenant with the 11, so that they in turn could make it last until its completion at Jesus' return. And for that Jesus will show them how to do it.

Now is the time for this new covenant that Jesus will establish. Until now, He had preached the New Birth through repentance. And with this new covenant, Jesus will give us the means to go further, to be able to experience this New Birth even more deeply.

I remember, as a young Christian, I wondered: "But what has become new in me? Yes, some aspects of myself have changed, but not so much... Yet the Bible says that I am a new person". All these questions were mixing in my head without really having a clear and practical answer. When I asked the question to Christians who were more experienced than me, they replied that it was Jesus who made me this new person. I already knew that, but what I didn't know was by which practical effect I could see this transformation in me. These kinds of answers didn't help me much, because they didn't answer my questions at all. Today, more than 25 years later, thanks to the Holy Spirit and some teachings, I have the answer to my questions. And a large part of the answer lies in a good understanding of the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 26: 26-28 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."*⁷ *Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

I have long wondered why Jesus chose to take bread to symbolize His body and wine to symbolize His blood. He could have taken the lamb they were eating to symbolize His person, but Jesus did not, yet it was apparently a good illustration. If Jesus chose bread and wine to symbolize His person, it is for at least two reasons.

THE LORD SUPPER

Taking some cooked lamb instead of bread and wine would not have had the same impact. For there are two aspects celebrated in the Lord's Supper, the body and blood of Jesus, and these are the two things to celebrate. The sole lamb celebrated, in time, would have completely erased the fact of having on one side the body and on the other side the blood of Jesus given for us. A few hundred years later we would have completely forgotten that there were two things that Jesus gave in the Lord's Supper, His body and His blood. The years would have quickly blended them together, and today we would surely be celebrating through the Lord's Supper the fact that Jesus gave His life for us, without any further details. This is true, but it is very important to understand the details of this gift. Yet blood is part of the body, so why does Jesus differentiate between the two?

When I am born again, I enter a process of change. We are all made of a spirit, a soul and a body. Since my New Birth my spirit is now separated from my soul (according to **Heb 4: 12**) and made perfect, (for more details see my study on the New Birth). But my body and soul remained inclined to sin. Sin does not necessarily mean saying, doing or thinking terrible things. It is every time I don't do God's will that I sin. I miss the goal that God has set for me. Did you know that the One who created all the universes took time to think about you and determine the best choices of your life on earth? This is what I would call God's will for us. And yet with our intelligence so limited in comparison to His, very often we do not do His will because we think we know better than He does, or because we do not get to know Him. That is why Jesus wanted us to regularly remember that He gave His body and blood for us.

Every time I take bread, I have to remember that the body of Jesus is integrated into mine.

But what for, you will tell me?

It is essential to integrate this fact into me. When my body is sick, for example, I know that my body is grafted onto His, it's like an envelope over my body. In addition to seeing my sins forgiven, this image helps me to see better what happens in my body when it needs healing, or when my body wants me to do things that are bad for me, this image helps me to activate the faith that I have already received.

THE LORD SUPPER

With His body on mine, I will respect my physical body much more, I pay much more attention to it. I know that Jesus gave me His body, which has never sinned, to go on mine. It is like a very precious thing that I have received, I will pay attention to it, that is why my sins are blotted out and God no longer sees them. The result is that I will sin much less often with my body. I no longer consider my body as it was before my New Birth, now an additional body has been given to me to cover mine. And it is not just any one, it is the one of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who has never known sin. Every time I eat the bread of the Lord's Supper I have to remember all this.

Then Jesus took a cup of wine to symbolize His blood and said "Drink of it, all of you". In the Bible, the blood is a symbol of the soul, of the life that passes through the whole body. The soul is in the blood, it represents my intelligence, the one that will treat my thoughts and give orders to my whole body. In His blood Jesus gave us His soul, His life, His intellect, His way of thinking. And in the same way as for my body, I must remember that my soul is grafted onto that of Jesus.

This fact is also essential to integrate into my life: knowing that my soul, my intelligence is as if covered by that of Jesus, I will no longer manage my thoughts in the same way. I will constantly have the thought that Jesus' soul is on mine. I will, as for my body, take much more care of my thoughts, because I know that it is Jesus' thoughts that are on mine. It is a precious help to know that my flesh (body and soul) is covered by that of Jesus. I will no longer fight in the same way, and powerful results will emerge in my life. The Bible often speaks of the blood of Jesus, who saves, who heals. Understand that if you and I were at the foot of the cross when His Blood was shed, and if we could have collected it in a glass, it would have no value. It would simply be the physical blood contained in the body of Jesus. When the Bible speaks of the blood of Jesus shed for us, it is to say: "His life given voluntarily according to His own will, His own intelligence for us, this perfect sinless life, offered. »

What a perfect plan!

Bread and vine fruit are still often the staple foods in most parts of the world today. That is why Jesus chose bread and wine, because they are foods that almost everyone is probably eating at least once a day. Jesus said when speaking of the Lord's Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me".

THE LORD SUPPER

This is something we need to do regularly, but why?

Quite simply because very often the devil comes to suggest lies, which we end up believing. Lies like: "Jesus who gave His body to help yours!? But that's not true. Look, you can't even keep a good resolution".

Or: "Jesus gave His soul for you? It's another lie you believed when you read that study on the Lord's Supper. You are not even able to have good thoughts towards such and such".

I have often heard Christians teach that it is impossible for a demon to come and put thoughts into my soul. Well, if that's what you think, I can tell you that such a thought already comes from an evil spirit. Take time to reread the passage where Paul talks about an angel of Satan who comes to speak to him when he talks about his thorn in the flesh in 2 Corinthians 12: 7. Many Christians, if not most, think that this is a physical problem that Paul describes. But not at all, it is a bad spirit that regularly comes to try to discourage him by talking to him about his weaknesses.

So remember, now every time you take the Lord's Supper, that Jesus gave His body for yours and His soul for yours. If Jesus bothered to take food that gets into us, it is so that we can integrate this fact, I eat His body that comes over mine, and I eat His soul that comes over mine.

Personally I try to remember this whole process each time I eat bread and drink. Drinking hardly any wine for a reason of taste, I don't wait to drink it to remember that Jesus gave me His soul. Several times a week, when I come to the table and there is bread and water, I remember what Jesus did for me. But this does not prevent me from celebrating the Lord's Supper with my brothers and sisters in the community to which we are going. But I don't want to wait once a month to remember all that. I need to renew it regularly.

I think we all need to renew it regularly.

I think that we all need to renew it regularly.

What are the benefits of it?

THE LORD SUPPER

When I find myself in a situation where I have to pray for this or that, if the thought that the body, the soul and moreover the Holy Spirit of Jesus is an integral part of my being, I will be much more effective in my prayer. It is obvious. I will not have to resemble my thoughts, concentrate for a long time to finally be ready to formulate my prayer. It is constantly that I must remember that His body and soul are part of me. And that is why Jesus chose food to symbolize His gift to us. Because human beings cannot do without food. Food, I can't do without it, it's essential for me if I want to stay alive. In the same way, remembering that Jesus gave me His body and soul is a matter of life, I can't do without it. That is why it is very important to be nourished by this thought, this celebration regularly. Jesus gave His body and blood so that His whole life would be integrated into my being. That is why, thanks to Jesus' voluntary gift for me, I would live forever, for God sees me without sin. The Lord's Supper is there so that I do not forget that Jesus gave his whole life for me, but also so that I do not forget that I have received this life in its wholeness: His body, and His soul, and His Spirit.

Very often it is the passage from 1 Corinthians 11: 23 that is read in congregations to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

I am always saddened when I hear that Sunday after Sunday, we read this passage to celebrate the Lord's Supper. It becomes like a recitation that no one understands or listens to anymore. It would be so much more beneficial for Christians from time to time to hear an explanation of why Jesus gave His body and blood for us. This would not prevent us, once in a while, from reading a passage from the Gospels or from 1 Corinthians that speaks of the Lord's Supper. The result is that a large percentage of people would know all the practical benefits of the Lord's Supper for their lives if they understood that the body and soul of Jesus are integrated into theirs.

So some only remember that Jesus suffered, and they all look sad, others try to find out what the "important" sins they may have committed recently in order to ask for forgiveness before they take bread and wine.

Today many people think that God will expose them to judgment if they have not repented of all their sins before taking the Lord's Supper.

THE LORD SUPPER

Not at all.

All this is only the result of misunderstandings or wrong teachings. Quite often, because the passage of 1 Corinthians 11 which is quoted, pushes Christians to put themselves in the same position as the Corinthians to whom Paul spoke in this passage.

Read again the letter to 1 Corinthians. And you will see that Paul is forced to severely rebuke the members of this church. There were disputes between men and women about whether or not one person was superior to the other. Divisions. Adultery. Paul even says that they are assembling to become worse. During the Lord's Supper celebration, some were drunk, others took the opportunity to eat other people's food, and there was nothing left to eat when some arrived. Others had to be driven out of the church by Paul for a while. There were people who took bread and wine without being born again. Paul adds that this is the reason why there are so many sick among them, and many are not cured. I will not list all the problems of this church, but everyone will have understood that the Corinthians had serious problems to solve.

And it is in this context that Paul was forced to remind the people how to take the Lord's Supper.

Do you consider your church to be like that of the Corinthians? That it has the same problems? I do not wish it.

If this is not the case, then do not consider yourself as the Corinthians of that time. Paul's severity is not directed towards you. Do not feel accused, and do not look for any sins you might have committed that might lead to a judgment against you. The Lord's Supper is not there to accuse us, nor to bury us in the guilt of sin. It is there simply to remind me that Jesus gave His body and soul for me, and that I must use this benefit every day. This does not mean that we should not consider Paul's teachings on this subject.

Quite the contrary.

1 Corinthians 11: 27-29 *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 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the*

THE LORD SUPPER

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

Why does Paul say that?

Quite simply because there were people who joined in the Lord's Supper without having passed through the New Birth. And because of this these people were "unworthy". This does not mean that they would never be entitled to do it. No. But these people had to pass through the New Birth first. It is a very logical and obvious thing when you think about it. How can we celebrate and remember the fact that Jesus gave His body and blood for me whereas I did not accept Him or integrate Him into my being. This is an aberration. If I proclaim by this act that I am free from the law of God but in fact I am not, it is a judgment against myself. I can't rejoice in something I don't have, like I have it. Paul had to send Timothy to bring this Corinthian community back into balance, even the elders of this church had failed in their task. No one was able to give a teaching according to the Good News of Jesus, which led to excesses like those of some who celebrated the Lord's Supper without even having passed through the New Birth. And in this case these people eat and drink a judgment against themselves.

Why?

Because before being practical the Lord's Supper is spiritual.

When I take bread and wine, Paul says that I proclaim, or I announce that I am at the benefit of the death of Jesus Christ. In other words, I am proclaiming before all creation, but also before the angels, before every evil spirit, that the blood, the life of Jesus has forgiven all my sins, that God's law no longer has any action on me, and that I have received authority over Satan and his demons through Jesus Christ by receiving His body, His soul.

God has proclaimed a period of Grace in which everyone is forgiven for all their sins, all we have to do is accept it. Do you think that Satan and his demons will stand by and do nothing before such an easy prey as someone who has not passed through the New Birth and who proclaims: "I am forgiven for my sins and I have received the life of Jesus Christ in me, I have authority against you Satan and your army! ». It's like going to taunt the evil powers, going into a battle

THE LORD SUPPER

without any strength or weapons, and putting myself in a dangerous position. That is why, in this case I eat and drink a judgment against myself, I attract an action of the devil on me. I often see parents, at the Communion, giving bread and a small glass of grape juice to their children. If this is your case, now you know what you are exposing your children to. This celebration is not a meal to nourish myself physically or a pretext to calm my young child who would have a whim if I don't give him bread and grape juice when I take some for myself!

Understand that there are spiritual consequences behind all this. So don't expose your children spiritually because of your neglect.

Paul goes on to say: **1 Corinthians 11: 28** *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

We are still in the same context, Paul is severely rebuking a community that no longer has a stable education. He just said that some people take the Lord's Supper without even being born again. And it is with the same idea that he says: "Let each one therefore test himself". In other words: "Before taking part in this meal, check that you have been born again, check that you have understood and integrated into yourself the process of the New Birth".

And Paul goes on to say: *"and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup"*. Paul's idea was not to kick out all those who were not born again from the Lord's Supper communion.

Quite the contrary.

In saying this Paul says in other words: "If by examining your life you have realized that you have not been born again, then be quick to go through the New Birth, so that you can promptly integrate the body and soul of Jesus into you, by taking bread and wine.

Then Paul gives an element that has often been a misunderstood subject.

In the first years of my Christian life, I often wondered if you could get sick by taking the Lord's Supper unworthy, or even die. I had heard elders say, perhaps like some of you too, that if I took the Lord's Supper without examining myself and asking forgiveness for the sins I might have committed, God could allow a disease in my life, and I might even die from it.

THE LORD SUPPER

Such ideas are only lying strategies that come from evil spirits.

At that time I can say that my knowledge of God was very limited. Today it is still so, but much less so, because I still learn very regularly in the team I form with the Holy Spirit.

When you analyse things a little, Paul's words make sense.

1 Corinthians 11: 30 *That [careless and unworthy participation] is the reason why many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep [in death].*

Remember that we are still in the same context, where Paul rebukes those people who celebrate the Lord's Supper without being born again, but also where he sees that there is no solid teaching in this community. It is to such an extent that Paul is obliged to send Timothy to teach them in addition to his letters, because Paul understood well that the Corinthians will not succeed on their own, they were not self-sufficient.

And in all this context, it is unfortunately normal that many are sick and still disabled.

Why?

Because no one was able to teach about healing in a powerful way. No one was able to integrate the fact that he had received in Jesus the full authority over all diseases, all disabilities, and to apply it in his own life or in the lives of his brothers and sisters. As a result, the sick remained sick, (some of them ended up dying of their illnesses), and the disabled remained disabled. And their numbers increased as people arrived in the church.

I remember in our first community, two of my sisters whom I loved very much who were sick. It happened two or three years apart. The first one had multiple sclerosis. Month after month we saw the disease taking over more and more of her. Yet our whole church prayed and begged God to intervene, but we saw her diminish more and more. Then she went with God. My other sister in Christ had bone cancer. The same things have been applied. The whole church begged God to heal her, but after a few years she also went with God. Today they are both

THE LORD SUPPER

with Jesus. And when I think about all this, I miss them both.

At that time the church leaders said: "God preferred to take her back with Him. Everything was done to heal her, but it was not God's will".

Quite often we hide our incompetence behind the "so-called" will of God. Our entire community was at fault in both of these failures. God wants us to be healthy. And I am equally at fault myself and my wife because of our ignorance, who were part of this church at the time, for letting our two sisters passed away.

How many churches see that there are many sick, infirm among them who remain sick and infirm year after year? Do not accept such situations, do not tell yourself "It may be God who allows".

No. God does not want to allow His children to remain sick and infirm!

That is why Paul told the Corinthians: "That is why there are many sick and infirm among you, and many have died".

These people lacked teaching, and Paul's sentence was the result. People were sick and ended up dying of their diseases without being healed by the power of the cross.

This is my only motivation in writing my studies, in teaching men, couples: to allow no one to remain in ignorance. For it is ignorance of the true Good News that leads to suffering. There is no "elite" among Christians. Everything Jesus did you can do with a little effort to activate what He gave you by grace, and a little knowledge of His Word.

John 13: 2-5 *And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

As you read the verses above, you may have thought: "But why is he talking about Jesus washing the feet of His disciples in this study on the Lord's Supper?». «

THE LORD SUPPER

I also asked myself this question when preparing this study. And we will see together that "Jesus who washes the feet of His disciples" is part of the teaching of the Lord's Supper. If I have not understood the teaching that Jesus gave by washing the feet of his disciples, I could not fully practice the teaching of the Lord's Supper in my life, and unfortunately I will not get all the results of it.

The Gospel of John is the only one who tells us about this moment when Jesus washes the feet of the apostles. John was over 80 years old when he wrote this gospel, and even decades later he remembered the details of the whole scene. John had to quickly put this truth into practice to be called happy as Jesus said in **John 13: 17**.

Let us now take a closer look at the passage of **John 13: 2-5**.

After having finished eating Jesus gets up, takes off His clothe to be more comfortable, and so as not to dirty it, then He begins to wash the feet of His disciples. It is because there was a dispute between the apostles that Jesus washed their feet. A few minutes before, the eleven did not agree with each other, as they were trying to find out which one of them was the most important.

Luke 22: 24 *Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.*

Yet Jesus has just taken time to explain to them that they must remember His life given to them, that God has washed away all their sins, and that they must keep all this in them through the body, and the soul of Jesus given in His blood. I do not blame them, because how many times have we immediately put into practice the teachings of the Holy Spirit? It often takes us a little time before we can fully assimilate a teaching that the Holy Spirit gives us or that we hear from a teacher. For us Christians today it is easy because we already know the whole New Covenant. But they were still living the whole process of the Good News. And here are our brothers who are trying to find out who would be the greatest among them. John could have said: "I am the one who is closest to the Master"... And Peter could have said: "But I walked on the waters of the lake..."

And each one surely had to give his argument to prove that he was the greatest of the Apostles. But Jesus responds to them in a way that is contrary to the

THE LORD SUPPER

meaning of human society. In other words, He said to them: "Do not be like the leaders of this world who have taken their power and responsibility for themselves and who like to be flattered by standing above others. They call themselves benefactors. This is not how one is the greatest in my Father's kingdom. Do not be like them, this is not the way to amass treasures in heaven. But on the contrary, authority and greatness are acquired by elevating others".

Luc: 22: 25-26 *And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called "benefactors". But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.*

Then Jesus goes on to say: "I will now show you how you can be the greatest. Look, who is the Envoy, the Son of God who came to take away sins? It's me, you know that. So look now, I'm going to put myself in a lower position than yours. And that is why I am the greatest among you, because I have accepted to abandon my own person, and because I have abandoned it, My father has given me His glory".

Luke 22: 27 *For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.*

Jesus is telling the Apostles that now they must no longer be centered on themselves, but on Jesus. And it is because they will no longer be centered on themselves, that they will go through a real New Birth, that they will be empty vessels ready to be filled with the nature of Jesus.

Do you know why Jesus was able to receive the glory, power and authority of God in His life? Because he was God's Envoy of course, but also because he accepted to renounce himself, to be centered on Himself.

If I accept to think "From now on, I leave my "self" aside, I will no longer try to do things to get personal recognition, I will let the nature of Jesus that I received express itself in my being", it is only then that Jesus will do in me what His Father has done in Him.

It is very easy to speak, and less easy to act to validate your words. That's what Jesus is going to do now.

THE LORD SUPPER

John 13: 3-5 *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

This work was usually reserved for the servants or slaves of the house. This was not the time we live in today. The roads were dusty, there were sometimes animal droppings on the road and people walked in them, and mud, etc.... As a result, after walking all day, people's feet were not in the same condition as ours when we took off our shoes and socks at home at night. At the time, no socks, no closed shoes. In other words, the feet could be very dirty.

The Apostles must have been surprised to see Jesus getting up, then taking a basin, filling it with water. Everything was already ready in the upper room to wash the guests' feet. Perhaps in the preparations for the Passover, Peter and John had made sure that there was sufficient water to wash Jesus' feet and those of the disciples, and that the master of the house in the early evening would send a servant to do so.

But no, it didn't happen like that.

It was Jesus who took the place of the servant. (For more details see my study on the Person of Jesus). Apparently no one objected to having their feet washed by the master. Verse 5 of John 13 shows us that Peter was not the first to have his feet washed by Jesus. Let us remember that the Apostles were coming out of a dispute among themselves to know who was the greatest. I think everyone had to be silent and feel small when they saw that Jesus began to kneel and wash the first feet. No one should dare to speak anymore. The thought a few minutes earlier of trying to raise oneself above others was beginning to vanish. Then comes Peter's turn: Peter, often the first in words, but also often the first in acts of faith and to lead his comrades... Peter the leader.

THE LORD SUPPER

John 13: 6-8 *Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."*

He refuses to let his Master lower Himself to the role of a servant. But Peter has not yet fully integrated this new nature that suppresses the "self". For him it is inconceivable that Jesus could wash his feet because He is the Master. Peter has not yet understood that Jesus is the Master because He is not centered on Himself, because He has allowed the nature of God to live in Him in place of His flesh. Notice that Peter did not say: "No, Master, you will never wash my feet, it is rather me who will wash them for you, for you are the Master".

Certainly, Peter considered Jesus too important to wash his feet, but he did not consider himself enough of a "servant" to wash Jesus' feet.

It is also about being self-centered, when I don't consider myself "small" enough to go and help my brother or sister in any situation. And that is what Jesus answers to Peter. In other words, He said to him: "Peter, if you don't let me wash your feet, if you don't accept the fact that I am standing as a servant before you for a moment, well, there will not be much in common between you and me. If you want to receive My glory, that is, My love, My authority, My nature in you, you too will have to place yourself as a servant before your brothers and sisters".

What I like about Peter is that he doesn't take long to understand. As soon as he receives a teaching he integrates it into his life immediately. Even if he makes mistakes, he doesn't wait months to get over it. Immediately after Jesus' remark he says:

John 13: 9 *Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"*

Peter has now understood the teaching.

John 13: 12 (ERV) *When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and went back to the table. He asked, "Do you understand what I did for you?"*

THE LORD SUPPER

Jesus told them that He had not received anything that was not given to Him by His Father, but that the apostles also would not receive anything that would not come to them from Jesus Himself.

John 13: 14 *If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

It happen to me several times to see or hear Christians washing their feet today. I have nothing against it, but it remains a symbol. This can be a strong aspect from the point of view of the image in a preaching for example. I remember a friend who, after his teaching in the church, took a basin and invited those who wanted to have their feet washed. But his teaching was about the fact that we should not hesitate to position ourselves lower than a brother or sister in order to raise him/her.

John 13: 10 (GW) *Jesus told Peter, "People who have washed are completely clean. They need to have only their feet washed. All of you, except for one, are clean."*

Jesus says here that when you took a swim in a lake or a shower in a public bath you were clean but when you arrived home your feet were dusty and therefore dirty. This means that the tide turns, and sooner or later you will have to wash somebody's feet, and sooner or later someone will have to wash your feet. In both cases, don't refuse, but think: "I refuse to focus on myself".

John 13: 16 *Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.*

Jesus says that He is no greater than His Father, that it is by forsaking Himself that He has integrated the nature of God into His human being. And in the same way we Christians are no greater than our Lord Jesus, and it is by forgetting about ourselves (without denigrating ourselves, while keeping our dignity) that we will integrate the nature of Jesus into our being. And if we practice this way of thinking, we will be called "happy". Here the word "happy" means, overwhelmed with happiness, to live in the blessing.

John 13: 17 (GNT) *Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice!*

THE LORD SUPPER

To forget about ourselves is a long process. Do not be discouraged! This is not because the 'my or me' is able to upsurge sometimes and that I have to abandon everything and say "this is not worth it, I won't make it". No, don't give into these satanic lies.

Forgetting about ourselves is a long process. Don't be discouraged! Just because my "self" can take over sometimes doesn't mean I have to give up and say "forget it, I won't make it ". No, don't give in to these satanic lies.

Quite often I am disappointed in myself when I realize that in such and such a situation I have acted wrongly, because I was focused on myself. At first I was very discouraged, and with my desire to always do well, I thought it wasn't worth it to continue my efforts. But today when this happens to me, I recall that all this is a process, that it takes a little time and that I am on the right track. So I get up and move on. I only look at the positive that has been achieved so far.

Have you understood the whole process of the Lord's Supper?

All the situations of this very evening are linked. They are the result of a teaching.

When I am born again, I integrate the body and life of Jesus into me.

That is why God no longer considers me a sinner, and why my body and soul are now grafted onto those of Jesus. I must remember this every time I eat and drink bread and the fruit of the vine (or the staple food of my country if there is no bread and vine). And it is only because I regularly remember this that I will be able to put to death, little by little the fact of being centered on myself. And it is because I will be less and less focused on myself that I will be able to place myself as a servant for my brothers and sisters when necessary... That I will wash someone's feet at some point, and let somebody else wash my own feet.

Remember all this when you take the Lord's Supper in your community. Your sins are forgiven, there is no need to revisit them.

THE LORD SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is there to lift us up, to encourage us. It serves to remind us of all the potential that Jesus gave us. It serves us to move forward, its purpose is not to overwhelm us with thoughts of penance, nor to perform a religious rite.

The Lord's Supper refreshes the thought that Jesus lives in me, and that I have received everything to reach the goal God has set for me.

THE LORD SUPPER

This Bible study has been offer to you by "***The Real Good News***" Ministry.
Author: Franck Kvaskoff

If you wish to help us to continue to spread our teachings in the world for free, you can do it by making a gift on our website here <http://www.therealgoodnews.org/Pages/donate.html>

If you have received this study on a paper format you can go on our website www.therealgoodnews.org and click on "Donate".

For any enquiries or questions, please contact: info@therealgoodnews.org
Web site: <http://www.therealgoodnews.org>

This document is subject to a copyright. Any partial or total reproduction is strictly prohibited without the author's writing permission.