

Sermon Series: Holy Communion

Sermon Text: Acts 2:42 The Breaking of Bread

Because Christ has ordained the Lord's Supper for our communion with Him we hunger and thirst for His presence in His sacrament.

1) The breaking of bread

- a) A Doctrinal Expression for the Lord's Supper:
 - i) The verse is a summary of the church's gathered life, focused on acts of worship: Word, communion (*koinonia*)/breaking bread, and prayer
 - ii) Verse 41 testified to the Word and baptism.
 - iii) The Words of Institution: "And He took bread, and when He had given thanks (eucharist), He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'" (Luke 22:19)
 - iv) Luke 24:30-31 "When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed (eulogeo) and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him."
 - v) Luke 24:35 "He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread."
 - vi) Luke was Paul's traveling companion: 1 Cor. 10:16 "The bread that we break, is it not communion (koinonia) in the body of Christ?"
 - vii) Lord's Day Gathering for Worship: Acts 20:7 "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them . . .until midnight"
- b) The Bread
 - i) The Real Body of Jesus in Heaven: Incarnation
 - ii) The Real Presence of Christ among Us: Communion
- c) The Breaking
 - i) Remembering (Covenant Renewal) the Suffering of Christ
 - ii) Remembering (Covenant Renewal) the Death of Christ
- d) **Application:**
 - i) The Staple of Life
 - ii) Regular Nourishment
 - iii) A Grand Feast

2) Devoted to the breaking of bread

- a) Continual Devotion:
 - i) periphrastic expression, "they were (imperfect verb of being) devoting (present participle)," to emphasize the continuous, habitual, repetitive nature of the actions
 - (1) Acts 2:46a "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes": Temple Witness and Home/Church Worship
- b) Celebration and Sobriety
 - i) Acts 2:46b "they received their food with gladness and humble/simple hearts": Celebration and Sobriety
 - ii) 1 Cor. 11 indicates that the Lord's Supper was seamlessly observed with a larger meal which became known as an agape feast.

- c) Climax of Sacrificial System Communion: Every worship gathering of Israel involved eating before God with the covenant community (Deut. 16:1-17).

- d) **Application:**

- i) Regularity
 - ii) Commitment from Delight

3) Communion, the breaking of bread

- a) "Fellowship" (*koinonia*) is participation or sharing in something, hence, "communion."
- b) "Communion" is in apposition to "the breaking of bread" which means that "the breaking of bread" narrows the type of "communion" in view. Their communion is around the Lord's Table.
- c) Paul describes sacrifices to idols as communion with demons (false gods) and the sacrifices of Israel as communion "in the altar." These fellowships/communions are contrasted with the communion of the Church in the body and blood of Jesus: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not communion in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not communion in the body of Christ?" (1 Cor. 10:14-22).

- d) **Application:**

- i) Communion with One Another at the Lord's Table (1 Cor. 10:17 "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.")
 - ii) Communion with Christ (Rev. 3:20)
 - iii) Communion with Christ's Death and Its Benefits

Doxology: To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid servant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He has mercy upon us. (Psalm 123:1-2).