

Theme: God feeds and forms His people as the Spirit works through the sacrament of the Lord's Table in the worship of the gathered church so that their hearts flourish in ever-deepening delight in Christ, which then spills over into their daily lives, including meals shared with others.

## I. Intro - My Late Devotion to the Lord's Table

- A. At conversion, I immediately understood and was devoted to the Word of God, fellowship, and prayer.
- B. But I was never taught much about the Lord's Supper and rarely practiced it, so I was not devoted to it, and it was not a big part of my Christian life.
- C. That eventually changed as I began to study the Scripture on this important topic.
- D. As my understanding of the Supper was changed, my experience of it grew so that I came to understand that far from being a periodic symbolic ritual, it is an essential sacramental means of grace.

## II. Understanding the 'Breaking of Bread'

- A. The believers were devoted to the breaking of the bread  
And they **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, **to the breaking of bread** and the prayers. Acts 2:42
  1. This seems out of place at first - breaking of bread?
  2. But this is a very rich concept for Luke and others!
- B. Different meaning for 'the breaking of bread.'
  1. It can simply refer to eating a meal, especially together with others  
And day by day, attending the temple together and **breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, Acts 2:46

- a. Many scholars think v46 refers to shared meals
  - b. It could be that this included the Lord's Supper at the end, but it may have also included simple shared meals.
  - c. In either case, this use of it for a regular meal is an overflow of their devotion to the Lord's Supper.
  - d. This was a common name for meals in Jewish culture, because the host literally broke a loaf of bread to start a meal.
  - e. We can see this in Paul's words and actions on a ship caught in a storm  
And when he had said these things, **he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it** and began to eat. Acts 27:35
2. It was used in relation to Jesus' miraculous feeding of the multitudes  
And **taking** the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a **blessing** over them. Then he **broke** the loaves and **gave** them to the disciples to set before the crowd. Luke 9:16
    - a. This is one of Jesus' most important and celebrated miracles, recorded in all 4 Gospels.
    - b. Jesus, as the host of the meal, breaks the bread and gives it to the people to pass around and eat.
    - c. NOTE: The word "loaves" is the same word as "bread" - Greek only had one word that meant both.
    - d. Note the 4 key verbs - took, blessed (or gave thanks), broke, and gave. These four verbs became central in the Christian celebration of the Lord's Supper.
    - e. This was not "the Lord's Table," but it is told in such a way that it is a clear type for the church's celebration of the Lord's Table/Eucharist.

### 3. It was used in relation to the Last Supper

And he **took** bread, and when he had **given thanks**, 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

- a. This is the Last Supper, which is the institution of the New Covenant, and the beginning of the Lord's Supper celebration for the church.
- b. Note the same 4 words - took, gave thanks/blessed, broke, and gave.
- c. NOTE: Sometimes the word "blessed (εὐλογέω) is used, and sometimes the word "gave thanks" (εὐχαριστέω) is used. The term "the Eucharist" comes from the Greek word used for "give thanks."
- d. NOTE: While Luke 22:19 uses "gave thanks" (εὐχαριστέω), Matthew 26:26 and Mark 14:22 use "blessed" (εὐλογέω) to refer to the exact same act.

### 4. It was used in Jesus' post-resurrection meal with two disciples on the road to Emmaus

When he was at table with them, he **took** the bread and **blessed** and **broke** it and **gave** it to them. <sup>31</sup> And **their eyes were opened, and they recognized him**. And he vanished from their sight... <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and **how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread**. Luke 24:30-31, 35

- a. Jesus acted as host at the table with two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- b. The same 4 verbs are used again! The ONLY reason to elaborate on these 4 verbs is to link this meal to the celebration of the Lord's Table!
- c. At this table, as the bread is broken and given, their eyes are open, and they finally see and recognize Jesus!

- d. v35 - he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. The language used here clearly points to the Eucharist celebration of the Church - the breaking of the bread.

C. The breaking of bread has a rich tapestry of meanings, from the Lord's Supper to regular meals, reflecting how Spirit-filled believers in the early Church experienced Christ both in corporate worship and in their daily lives.

## III. Devoted To the Breaking of Bread

### A. Believers are called to be devoted to the Lord's Table

And they **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, **to the breaking of bread** and the prayers. Acts 2:42

1. This verse describes the worship gathering of the early church, so this is about the Lord's Supper.
2. This also flows from the breaking of bread described in Luke 24:30-35, where Jesus is made known in the breaking of the bread.
3. Luke also uses the phrase to refer to the Lord's Supper in gathered worship in Acts 20.

**On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked** with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. Acts 20:7

- a. Worship gathering - 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, break bread, apostolic teaching.
- b. These are all phrases used to describe the worship of the early church in the New Testament and in early church writings.  
  
But every Lord's day gather yourselves together, and break bread, and give thanksgiving after having confessed your transgressions - Didache 14.1

1. Lord's Day (Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> Day), gather, break bread, give thanks, confess sins - worship gathering!
2. We also saw this a few weeks ago in the teaching "Devoted - Worship" with quotes from a variety of early sources showing the same pattern.

4. Paul refers to the Lord's Table in similar words

The **cup of blessing** that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? **The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?** <sup>17</sup> Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

- a. The bread we break, the cup we bless - communion
- b. This reinforces Luke's usage to refer to the Table

B. Why We Are Devoted to the Lord's Table (Handout)

1. Jesus commanded it! (Luke 22:19; do this in...)
2. It visibly proclaims the Gospel (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; My body given for you; cup is new covenant in my Blood; proclaim the Lord's death)
3. It offers a chance for us to examine ourselves, to confess, and to repent of sin. (1 Corinthians 11:28; let a person examine himself)
4. It is a sacrament that unites me to Christ and spiritually nourishes me. (1 Corinthians 10:16; a participation in the blood/body of Christ)
5. It is a sacrament that unites me to other believers in the Church, the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17; one body, for we all partake of the one bread)

C. The overflow of the Lord's Supper in regular meals

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to **the breaking of bread** and the prayers... <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and **breaking bread in their homes, they received their food** with glad and generous hearts, Acts 2:42, 46

1. The breaking of bread is in both v42 and v46.
2. In v42, it is certainly about the Lord's supper, while in v46 it may reference the Supper but is probably just a regular meal.
3. The same pattern is true in Acts 20:7,11
4. We also know that in the early Church, communion was often part of a larger fellowship meal known as the "agape feast".
5. As with the other spiritual disciplines in Acts 2:42, the public practice of the means of grace flows over into life outside of the church gathered for worship.
6. As we receive the Lord's Supper, its effects spill over into the rest of life so that every meal becomes a pointer to the Eucharist, and is an occasion for giving thanks to God for all of His gifts to us.
7. This is especially true when the fellowship and the Lord's Supper we experience in worship spill over into our life together throughout the week.

D. God feeds and forms His people as the Spirit works through the sacrament of the Lord's Table in the worship of the gathered church so that their hearts flourish in ever-deepening delight in Christ, which then spills over into their daily lives, including meals shared with others.

#### IV. Applying the Word - Fed By Word and Sacrament

##### A. Take time to study & meditate on the Supper this week!

1. Use “Why We Are Devoted to the Lord’s Table”
2. You will reap rich rewards and growing delight each week as we come to the Lord’s Table in worship!

##### B. Worship - Fed by Word and Sacrament

When he was at table with them, **he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.** <sup>31</sup> And **their eyes were opened**, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “**Did not our hearts burn within us** while he talked to us on the road, **while he opened to us the Scriptures?**”... <sup>35</sup> Then they told **what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.** Luke 24:30-32, 35

1. Jesus teaches the Scriptures and then breaks bread with the disciples
2. Luke’s language purposefully gives a pattern for how Jesus feeds His disciples in worship.
3. He feeds them by the Word and also at the Table!
4. As the Word is taught, pointing to Jesus, their hearts are warmed, and in the breaking of the Bread, their eyes are opened!
5. This is why they recount both what happened on the road (Jesus opening the Scripture) and how “he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.”
6. Consider how this is the opposite of the Fall in the Garden

- a. Genesis 3:6-7 - she took, gave, they ate, their eyes were opened!
  - b. Adam and Eve refuse and deny the Word of God, but Jesus opens the Word for His disciples so they might receive and obey it.
  - c. They snatch food to which they had no right, but Jesus gives food to which we would have no right!
  - d. They eat, and their eyes are opened to their nakedness, and they hide from God and one another, but Jesus gives food that opens our eyes to see how we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ and open ourselves to God and one another!
  - e. They eat the food that brings death, but Jesus gives us the food of eternal life!
  - f. Oh, what a gift we are given at the Table!
7. Each week as we gather, Jesus feeds us by Word and Table, undoing the curse, strengthening our souls, and opening our eyes so that we might know Him better
  8. Come and receive from Jesus as He makes Himself known and feeds You at His Table.
  9. Corporate Reading of 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

#### Devoted - The Lord’s Table

Acts 2:42  
May 10, 2026  
Communion  
Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Lord’s Supper; Means of Grace; Sacrament; Worship; Christian Life

The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26