

JON'S SERMON EXODUS 12, PART FOUR

Thank you for your encouraging comments about these lessons and how they are transforming your families' lives. It is our hope that our CHEF families will be the most biblically educated in the country.

III. Exodus 12:8-10 "They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails. And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire."

A. The Lamb was not to be revered from afar but to be taken and eaten. As stated above, it is not enough to know that Christ's blood was shed for His people—it must be applied to our lives. This is accomplished by eating the Word, which was Christ, the bread of life. It was to be eaten, chewed upon, and digested as nourishment for the soul so that we would never hunger again. We must immerse ourselves in scripture and teach it to our children when we sit, when we walk by the way, when we lie down and when we rise up. Apply means to fix the mind; engage; give one's full attention to the task; to apply the heart to instruction; to work hard. Is this something that you do?

Proverbs continually exhorts children to incline their ears, fix their minds on their father and mother's teaching, to give their full attention and their complete heart to them. Children, do you fix your minds on your parents' teaching? Do you give them your full attention? Have you given them your heart? If you have not given your heart to your parents, you have not given your heart to God. And parents, if you are not training your children to incline their ears to you and to give you their full attention, then you are grossly neglecting your duty. Parents, where are your children's hearts?

1. Matthew 26:26 "While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'"
2. John 6:35 "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.'"
3. John 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
4. John 1:1-4 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men."
5. Deuteronomy 8:3 "He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."
6. Matthew 4:4 "But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'"
7. 1 John 1:1 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life."
8. John 6:53-58 "So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on

the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

B. Soul food, commonly known as southern food, is considered comfort food because it imparts comfort to both body and soul. Just the mention of soul food makes our mouths water in anticipation of feasting on such savory delights as fried chicken, cornbread, stewed tomatoes and okra, biscuits, pecan pie, and blackberry cobbler.

Does your mouth water in anticipation of feasting upon God’s Word? Do you feast upon God’s instruction, direction, wisdom, and the promises it contains? Do you savor the delectable verities of God’s Word? Our families should be feasting at the Banquet table of God’s Word each day! Is yours? The greatest joy of being a parent is feasting with our children at the Lord’s banquet table each day. If we are faithful, we can look forward to our children’s children feasting at the Lord’s banquet table just like the Rechabites who had a man before God forever. Not like Eli, but like Abraham.

Having a Bible, or a feast at hand, without partaking of soul food leaves the mind and soul continually in want. To be satisfied, we must feast upon the Word by chewing it through study. But it is not just knowing the Word, for the Pharisees knew the Word. No, it is much more. It must be a sincere desire to know God by delighting in His Word.

1. Proverbs 9:1,2 “Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars. She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.”

2. Jeremiah 15:16 “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”

a. Isn’t this a wonderful verse? Are God’s words a joy to your heart? Do you rejoice in them?

3. 1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

a. Like newborn babes, we should long for the nourishment of the Word, without which, we will die.

4. 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

5. Hebrews 5:14 “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

a. Only those who dig deeply into the truths of God will by habitual exercise be able to discern good and evil. This means reading, cross-referencing, meditating, recording, praying, and putting into practice the doctrines of faith.

6. Psalm 119:11 “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

7. Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

C. “Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea. Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.” No one expresses love for the Word of God better than David. Truly he was a

man after God's own heart. Will it be said of us, men, that we are men after God's own heart? How wonderful to have such a longing for communion with God.

1. Psalm 119 **READ ENTIRE CHAPTER-VERY TRANSFORMING!!!!**

2. Psalm 42:1 "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God."

D. Can you say that your soul pants for God? Aside from the pleasure soul food brings to the body, the greatest joy stems from partaking it with family. It is the catalyst that draws the family together in celebration and thanksgiving just as God's soul food draws us into intimate communion with Him. For the temple was where God was to be found, it was a gathering place for those who desired to worship and have contact with Him, but now God says that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we eat the Word to have communion with Him.

1. 2 Peter 1:2-11 "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."

2. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

3. John 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

4. Ephesians 3:14-19 "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

a. **Strengthened with power**—the power Paul is talking about here should be in us. When we stand on our own, we have no power because power comes from the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. We need the strength of that power no less today than the apostles and early Christians because the spiritual force that was working against them is working against us. And it is not just a matter of commanding Satan to flee because Christ told sinners to sin no more. It is walking with Christ in faith in every area of life.

b. As we look out at the carnage of America's most sacred foundational tenets, we realize that churches have lost their

power. It is not that God is impotent and Satan all powerful because scripture clearly shows us that Satan can do nothing without God's permission. The reason for churches' lack of power is that they have rejected Christ's authority over every area of life. In essence they have denied His crown rights. Yet our hope lies not with the vast majority of churches, but with us, for God tells us that when His people repent, He will heal their land. So when we thirst for God's glory in all areas of life and seek to please Him in all that we do, the power of God will dwell in us, and among us, to push back the darkness so that His glorious righteousness may shine upon the land once again. That is our hope, and that is our goal.

c. Can you imagine the power of His glory if we were consumed with His Word and His will instead of our own? Why we would be like Moses when he came down from the mount. Families, feast upon the Word that you may know God and His will and take dominion over every area of life for His glory. The key is His glory. As an electrician I often sought my glory because I wanted people to see how much I knew. And boy, did I think that I was good. Instead of seeking our own glory, let us strive to exalt God in all things so that others will see Christ in us.

5. Psalm 16:11 "You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

a. In His presence there is fullness of joy. Not the counterfeit joy that we feel when we puff ourselves up, but a fullness that fills the void in us that only God can fill with Himself.

6. 1 Peter 1:8,9 "And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls."

a. Do you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible for God, or do you glory in yourself?

E. A missionary to China during the 1900s, J. Oswald Sander said: "Everything in our Christian life and service flows from our relationship with God. If we are not in vital fellowship with Him, everything else will be out of focus. But when our communion with Him is close and real, it is gloriously possible to experience a growing intimacy."

So as a wife is intimately joined to her husband, so we, as Christ's Bride, are to be joined to our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, in the most intimate of all relationships. "In His presence there is fullness of joy" so that we can "greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible."

1. Romans 7:4 "Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God."

a. Bearing fruit is our litmus test. My fruit is not my preaching alone, but the way I act in my home and with my neighbor, and under duress, and when alone. My fruit is my children.

2. Song of Solomon 2:16 "My beloved is mine, and I am his..."

a. What is Christ to you? Is He your Lord? Many want Christ as their savior but not their Lord. They want Him to be available and ready to come when He is summoned. But God is not some puppet on a string, which can be maneuvered when pulled. Him to act, as we want. No, He must be honored through our obedience by all that we do—during every waking hour.

3. Ephesians 5:23-30 "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so

that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body."

a. You know what used to pop out at me in this verse? It was that wives were to be subject to their husbands as head, but when I would point this out to my wife, she would say, "Yes, as Christ is head of the church—who loved the church and gave Himself up for her." Pay attention, boys! You know who is to set the example? Husbands! So how will you treat your wife? How will your children see you? Will they see Christ in you? Will your relationship to your wife exemplify Christ's relationship with His Bride—the Church—who loved her and gave Himself up for her?

4. Revelation 19:7,8 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

F. As the people took the lamb and ate it, the lamb became part of their bodies. So, too, just as God walked with Adam, just as Christ dwelt among the Israelites in the pillar and cloud, Christ now dwells in us, for our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. In the following verse tabernacle means dwelling place. God dwells among His people.

It is not enough that we go to church on Sunday. There must be a continual dwelling in us for us to claim Christ as our savior. We cannot look at Him from afar or just on Sundays or just when we read the Word. He must dwell in us wherever we go and in whatever we do.

1. Revelation 21:2,3 "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.'"

2. Leviticus 26:11-14 "Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect."

3. 2 Corinthians 6:16 "...We are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'"

G. Just as an equally yoked husband and wife bear much fruit, we will bear much fruit in Christ. And just as equally joined spouses work in harmony and unity, so our union with Christ will bear fruit in harmony with God's Word. Think of your souls as gardens, which bear much fruit because of Christ's life giving abilities.

1. John 15:4-11 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that

your joy may be made full.”</p> <p style="margin-left:1.0in;"> a.◆◆◆◆ If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love.Abide means to rest and dwell; to remain and continue—in that love.</p> <p style="margin-left:1.0in;"> b.◆◆◆◆ Note that He says, “He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit.” Bearing much fruit is proof of being His disciple. There must be fruit!</p> <p style="margin-left:1.0in;"> c.◆◆◆◆ To call someone a carnal Christian is an oxymoron because the opposite of “If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love” is—if we do not keep His commandments, we do not abide in His love. We cannot live immorally and continue to claim to be His. To be in God’s love, to be in Christ’s love, to be heirs with Abraham, we have to be obedient to His Word. We must strive towards obedience. God desires that we possess His joy. Children, obedience brings blessings beyond compare. Strive towards obedience.</p> <p style="margin-left:.75in;"> 2.◆◆◆◆ Hebrews 6:7 “For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God.”</p> <p style="margin-left:1.0in;"> a. That which drinks rain brings forth vegetation. When we drink from the fount of living water, we will bring forth fruit. There has to be fruit!</p> <p style="margin-left:.75in;"> 3.◆◆◆◆ Song of Solomon 4:12-15 “A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a rock garden locked, a spring sealed up. Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, henna with nard plants, nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all the trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, along with all the finest spices. You are a garden spring, a well of fresh water, and streams flowing from Lebanon.”</p>