

Appointed Times Unleavened Bread

Feast of Unleavened Bread

Moment of Truth I can't stand to have my picture taken... Don't like it..never have.. Worse day of my school year...Picture Day Never learned "that smile" You know...instant perk...couldn't do it. I was the kid in the class picture that looked goofy Never wanted to see my pictures..certainly never wanted to buy them It persists to this day...

Can't stand that everywhere you go at Disney... Someone wants to take your picture... Then sell it to you after the ride Or after dinner My Media Photo at the Hospital is 17 years old..**SMH PHOTO** Didn't want to sit for it then... Can't get me to sit for a new one now...

God has a sense of humor though... My wife loves photography... She use to have her own business She has tons of pictures of here favorite subject....our kids Occasionally I ended up in those.. didn't like it.

But here is what is interesting... As much as I hate having my picture taken.... I love...absolutely love...looking at and critiquing pictures of other people And it doesn't matter to me who they are I love looking at older photos...I go into super analytic mode Try to put myself in that situation on that day... Come up with all sorts of scenarios...

I recently spent hours one day at the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian The day I was there...they had an exhibit of... Ulysses S Grant and Robert E Lee... Talk about being in the right place at the right time... Somehow Tammy missed it....all 4 hours... Looking at 22 Photos.

When we sit in restaurants...I look at the old photos on the wall... As long as I am not in them... Photos fascinate me.

I remember the first time.... I heard of a Selfie....People taking their own picture.... I thought why in the world would anyone do that? It's one thing to get stuck having your picture taken... But to do it yourself?...that's nuts And then I heard that they actually post them... So others can see them!

Not me....I've taken only a few "selfies" Couple **Frank and Tammy Photos** And only because Tammy demanded a photo of us.. But it takes about 7 of them...to get me to "smile right" I really get uncomfortable looking at a picture of myself... Because honestly...I don't look like I think I look When I am forced to look at myself....

I have to admit a few things...that truthfully I would rather avoid I feel exposed....I feel vulnerable... Pictures force me to see what I have conveniently glossed over They say the camera doesn't lie.... probably why we developed Photo Shop But I know that there is one camera that never lies...It is this one...(Holding Up Bible)

The Bible

Hebrews 4:12–13 (ESV) 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the

thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

We we study God's Word... When we look at His holiness...His perfection.... We know that it is going to take far more than Photoshop To fix what is wrong.

Look at the text....No creature is hidden from His sight.... All are naked and exposed... God's word exposes not only how we look... But the thoughts and intentions of the heart Can you imagine a camera that would capture not only you... But what you are thinking?....

Sounds like fun doesn't it? That is why it is so hard to preach the truth of this book And always create only warm and fuzzy feelings.... This book was designed to force us to look at ourselves.... It is the ultimate Selfie

God wants us to open this book...and see ourselves Not so He can humiliate us... But so He can engage us to surrender... And allow Him to transform us.

So its no surprise... That I avoided the Word of God for so long I don't like to see myself.... I don't want to admit the truth Of what God sees...and what He knows is in my heart

For a significant portion of my life.. I carried this book around...to look Spiritual I would occasionally open it... Then I would try to change what it said... I used it when it supported what I wanted to do... But rationalized it away...when it said what I didn't want it to say

I tried to fake out God...as if He couldn't see... God don't look there...look over here...see me serving! God don't go there....God see me at church! God don't ask that question....God look I am carrying your word.... We treat God sometimes like He is really not smart at all. Like we can fake Him out...play a shell game with our sins.

Fortunately God is patient with us... He knows that none of us really like having to face and admit What is really in our hearts at times It takes a lot of faith in God's love and mercy... To Hold up this book....and take a Selfie Allowing God to expose and shine light on what He wants us to see. He knew we would have to set aside time.... To allow Him to show us what we are to see. That is what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about....

We are in a series... called Appointed Times Looking at 7 Feasts..IMAGE .7 Appointed Times when God said in Lev 23 His people should keep Holy...

Seven Feasts 4 Fall..3 Spring All tell a complete story of the Messiah Spring feasts happened in Jesus' First Coming to Earth Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Weeks Fall feasts will happen at His second coming Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles

Signs of Jesus' return...Signs of the Literal Fulfilment of the Fall Feasts Signs in the heavens, signs on earth, Signs among people, Signs in the hearts of people He gave signs recorded in Scripture through the Prophets Signs recorded in Scripture by Jesus Himself... Then He gave His followers the Holy Spirit...to reveal and teach all things... Including awareness of the times.

Last week we began by looking at the First Feast Passover We learned that Passover has been fulfilled prophetically in the life of Jesus the lamb of God Jesus was presented...examined...and crucified by the whole assembly He died when the Passover Lambs died

But we also learned that there is a Passover Moment to come When God's final pass of death will come And we must make sure that our lives...and everyone's lives...are covered in the blood of Jesus Passover is all about the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.

It is about innocent sacrifice for sins And we live in a time prophetically Between the Sacrifice of the Lamb and the final pass over of death We are in a time...when we must decide... What we are going to do with the blood of the lamb

Today we explore the second feast...The Feast of Unleavened Bread

This Feast starts the very next day after Passover In fact the two are often linked together as one celebration

My prayer is that by studying these feasts.... We will together understand God's plan for redemption We will build our confidence about God's promises in the future We will see and understand what Jesus did and why He did it...in a fresh and new way We will go to a deeper place with God both as individuals and as a church

And... as we get into the Fall Feasts in a few weeks.... We will better understand the things to come in our future We will see God's hand guiding end times And we will be compelled to reach out to those who do not know

Passover is linked with... The Feast of Unleavened Bread

The two are often celebrated together to describe 8 days in the Spring In fact, the Bible often uses the terms Passover and Feast of Unleavened bread interchangeably Now Passover and Unleavened Bread were introduced by God before any of the other feasts.

When God first told the Israelites that He would be passing over that night He told them about the importance of these 8 days. So by the time these Feasts were recorded in Leviticus they already knew... and had been observing Passover and Unleavened Bread.

Lets look at what God said in Exodus He has just told them He would be Passing Over on the 14th of Nissan

Exodus 12:12–20 (ESV) 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:12–20 (ESV) 14 "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses,

for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel

16 On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. 17 And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.

Exodus 12:12–20 (ESV) 18 In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. 19 For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. 20 You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

So these two feasts were instituted from the first Passover.

This feast is also... The first of 3 Annual Pilgrimage Feasts During 3 of the 7 Feasts...All Jewish men were required to present themselves... To the Lord at the Temple.

Three Times a Year they made a pilgrimage Twice in the Spring.... The Feast of Unleavened Bread Then 50 days later at the Feast of Week- or Pentecost Once in the Fall They traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem For the Feast of Trumpets.

All Jewish Men celebrated those three feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem As a Jewish child and man...we see Jesus observing these Pilgrimage Feasts.

At the Age of 12 Jesus traveled with His family for the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Luke 2:41–43 (ESV) 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

For 3 Days...Jesus was hidden in the Temple...teaching the Scholars Perhaps foreshadowing what was to come

Leviticus 23:5–8 (ESV) 5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover. 6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.

This is what is called a High Holy Day It is treated as a Sabbath Day...even though it does not fall on the Sabbath So the Day after Passover...is a day of no work...none.

That is why they rushed to get Jesus down from the cross and into the tomb... Jesus died as the Passover Lamb likely around 3pm...Sun set around 5-6 Joseph of Arimathea...

Luke 23:52–56 (ESV) 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The Day of Preparation means the Day before a Sabbath Remember that the Jewish Day started as Sunset... So they rushed to prepare Jesus for burial before Sunset... The ladies saw how His body was placed in the tomb But their preparation of spices and ointments... Were interrupted by the Sabbath

So on what we call Easter...and Jews called the Feast of First Fruits... They returned with those spices..to find an empty tomb That Feast we will unpack next week

So Jesus Died on Passover As Jesus was being placed in the tomb The Feast of Unleavened Bread was starting

Leviticus 23:5–8 (ESV) 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. 8 But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.”

So the 7 Days of the Feast of Unleavened bread.. Have 5 Days of Food offerings...sandwiched between 2 High Holy Days.

During the 7 Day Feast... Leaven was strictly forbidden....under all circumstances At least 6 different passages in Scripture... Emphasize the importance of avoiding Leaven during this Feast The punishment...was severe...

Exodus 12:19 (ESV) 19 For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land.

You see it is not just enough to avoid eating leaven.... You must do everything you can... During those 7 days...to avoid any form of Leaven... It can't be in your home...in your business....in your car... Leaven must be removed from every place and everything you eat.

Exodus 13:7–10 (ESV) 7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory. 8 You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.

9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. 10 You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

Deuteronomy 16:3–4 (ESV) 3 You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction—for you came out of the land of Egypt

in haste—that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt. 4 No leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory for seven days,

It seems over the top doesn't it? God delivered the Israelites in a hurry...they couldn't cook bread...they took unleavened bread. Got it...avoid leaven...but why all the warnings? God why are you so serious about leaven? What's the big deal?

Leaven

The Big Deal...is what leaven represented.... In Hebrew...leaven is known as Hametz which means sour

Leaven is usually yeast or baking powder It produces fermentation...As leaven sours the dough... Tiny gas bubbles cause the dough to rise Just a bit of leaven can impact the whole thing

During these Appointed Times... Any leaven...no matter how small the amount... No matter how hidden or discrete... You can't eat it....can't touch it...can't look at it. All leaven must be discovered...and purged... Failure to do so..is a serious breach of God's law

God is serious about leaven.... Because in Scripture...Sin is pictured as leaven...

Matthew 16:6–12 (ESV) 6 Jesus said to them, “Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 7 And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.” 8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, “O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? 9 Do you not yet perceive?

11 How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 12 Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Luke 12:1–3 (ESV) He began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

Sin...like leaven...rises and becomes obvious

Galatians 5:7–9 (ESV) 7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Ancient Rabbis believed... That Leaven represents the evil impulse of the heart. Leaven is a perfect picture of sin.. The tiniest amount....permeates the dough contaminates it...sours it...ferments it... It swells to many times its original size without changing its weight....

That is what sin does... Even the smallest amount...that we may think is insignificant... Will permeate us...contaminate us..sour us.

If you want to know God's attitude toward sin Even the little sins that you have rationalized away Think about His approach to purging leaven from the homes and lives of the Israelites In fact, that is what I believe this Appointed Time is all about

During the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread.... Sacrifices are to be made without any leaven...

Each day the Priests were to make specific sacrifices... During the eight days of celebration, a total of sixty-six lambs, fourteen bulls, seven rams, seven goats, seven and a half bushels of fine flour, over twenty-five gallons of olive oil, and at least one-half gallon of wine were expended.

God requires sacrifice...to cover sins. There is never forgiveness without the shedding of blood

The Jews knew better than I think we do.... That sin is serious...and God takes it very seriously Every animal sacrificed reminded them of what their sins did they knew very well that a price must be paid to cover their sins Their was a direct connection for them....

We no longer sacrifice animals for our sins.... Because Jesus was the final sacrifice for the World The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Our forgiveness comes only through faith and trust in His blood

Part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.. Is the reminder of the cost paid.... To remove sin...leaven from our lives

Jesus was pure...sinless...without leaven...and was sacrificed. He is the Lamb of God...pierced...stripped...wrapped in linen... He is the Bread of Life... Hidden...buried in a tomb.. He is the Middle Matzah...the Afikomen This...This is my body...

And because He was sinless....without leaven... Something happened to Him in the tomb That has never happened to anyone else... Something else we celebrate during this Feast His body did not decay..

King David hundreds of years prior foretold this... Psalm 16:10 (NIV) 10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

The curse of sin...of leaven...in Gen 3 is that "to dust you shall return"

As a pure, sinless sacrifice, Jesus was not under that curse. The grave could not hold Him Death had not power over Him He was perfect....without leaven...sinless...without decay. Just as King David had prophesied hundreds of years before

Jesus is the Perfect Unleavened Sacrifice. An important reminder to us... As we examine the sin in our lives

Paul told the Corinthians to Take a Selfie

1 Corinthians 5:6–8 (ESV) 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

What Paul is telling them..is that because they have by faith... Trusted that Jesus is their Sacrificial Lamb of God Passover is Past History... The Blood of Jesus...has already covered their lives.

They are now living in the Feast of Unleavened Bread They are living in a time...when they must examine themselves They must diligently seek out any leaven...any sin...no matter how small and purge it from their lives.....

You see they were doing what we do... We glance at our lives...and Look for the obvious sins...the ones everyone can see What is interesting is that when it comes to our sins... When it comes to Selfies...we glance and gloss over We Photoshop it in our minds We rationalize and excuse

But when it comes to the sins of others... Particularly when it hurts us or those we love When that picture is in front of us... We highlight everything...we analyze it all...we find every little detail Like me at the Smithsonian...nothing is missed.

Paul is shocked that the Corinthians..who were now believers in Jesus... were still involved in their old sins.. Sure they had cleaned up a bit... Stopped some of the more obvious "public" sins But for many of them...there was leaven lying around everywhere and they are acting like they don't see it.

Paul tells them..."Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump" He commands them to purge it out...all of it.

Imagine if I made you some brownies... I know it is a huge stretch...but let's pretend... Suppose I made the best looking brownies ever.

You reach to eat one and ask me what ingredients I used.. As you enjoy your brownie..I begin listing the ingredients. Dutch processed Cocoa Powder....unsalted butter... eggs..pure vanilla extract...flour..pecans..sugar...chocolate syrup and my secret ingredient.... To add texture and a bit of a kick

To your surprise my brownies are actually very good... You eat several of them You ask..what is the secret ingredient... One teaspoon of my Dog Rocco's poop from the back yard.

Its just a teaspoon... Its not hurting anything You probably can't even notice it It's nothing really Not important at all Go ahead...enjoy Have another one.. If you ever forget how God sees your sins...even the little ones... Think about my brownies

That is how God sees the sins that you gloss over. Do you not understand that a little leaven... Ruins the whole lump?

Paul is telling the Corinthians... you should no more allow a little leaven in your life... than you would allow a little poop in your brownies. Well that is not exactly what he said...but you get the idea

That is essentially what.... The Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about... 7 Holy Days...2 Sabbaths... 7 Days of Selfies... Setting aside Appointed Times with God... To allow His word..to take a snapshot of your life

To allow God to show you His slide show.... Of the things in your life...that are holding you back God wants us to acknowledge what He sees in our hearts He wants us to be diligent about cleaning out....even the small sins Because He knows that even the smallest sin...if ignored....will eventually ruin you.

God wants you to join Him in a search and destroy mission for any sin in your life. The Jewish People took painstaking efforts to remove even the smallest amount of leaven

Gods' approach to leaven was very strict...very serious.. All sin..big and small...must to discovered... confessed and purged. Not so He can punish you...but so that He can free you Its not about judgment...it is about forgiveness.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread.... Is a reminder to all of us... to pursue holiness... To want everything that displeases God Out of our lives.

So what does the Feast of Unleavened bread mean for us? What can we learn from this Feast that we can apply to our lives?

I love that the Jewish People took sin very seriously. They spent an entire week every year examining, confessing and seeking forgiveness for their sins. I think that many of us haven't spent a single day with

God truly examining ourselves. Truly looking for sin in your life like you would look for cancer on a Ct Scan. Truly believing that if you miss it or ignore it....it will kill you.

God created Appointed Times.. Special Days and Feasts... To get us to stop what we are doing....and commune with Him To allow Him to change us... Passover and Unleavened bread remind us... That God delivered the Israelites from their bondage.... And He can deliver you from whatever binds you too... But He will not forgive and clean what you refuse to acknowledge and confess.

1 John 1:8–10 (ESV) 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

I want to encourage you to make this next week a new commitment to clearing the leaven out of your life. Set aside time each day...to allow God....to show you what He sees in your life...

Last week I told you that the women cleaned the house... But only the man could declare the house free of leaven... I want to invite you...to invite all of us collectively... to spend the next week cleaning house

And at the end of that week we will present our house to God And make sure He agrees that all sin..all leaven has been confessed and purged.

King David said prayed what may be the most dangerous prayer in the Bible... Psalm 26:2 2 Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

We are going to pray that prayer each day.... Allow God to reveal to you want you can't or don't want to see About your life. Like the Corinthians...we can miss the leaven in our lives Perhaps during this time..you need to go to another believer Who loves you and wants only the best for you... And ask them to share with you any leaven they see in your life it is so easy to see it in others So easy to miss it in ourselves

Jeremiah 17:9–10 (ESV) 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind,

We lie to ourselves about our sin... Allow God to search your heart and test your mind Each day for the next 7 days.... We will all examine an area of our lives We will walk through our heart with God... Allowing Him to look through each room... Our integrity...our purity...our self discipline...our humility...our love Each day for the next 7 allow God to reveal any leaven..any sin... No matter how small or insignificant you think it is...

Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you all things... As He reveals to us what He sees... We don't debate it...rationalize it...or deny it... We own it...confess it...and get rid of it... We purge every bit of it from our lives.

Then one week from today... When you are sure you have purged even the smallest leaven from your life Present your heart..to God... We can end the celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread...together next week when we together...celebrate communion....

Imagine...Just imagine.... How different our lives would be....our church would be... How different our relationships would be.... And how much more brightly we can shine for Jesus... If we spent 7 days...diligently removing all sin from our lives.

Each of us individually and collectively would be transformed... Those watching us...would see a change... As we remove the roots of sin that entangle us... The fruit of God's Spirit grows through us.. And we become a people of greater.... Love..joy..peace..patience..kindness...goodness...self control The Feast of Unleavened Bread...The Ultimate Seven Day Selfie if you will... becomes an annual reminder to us... Of God's Appointed Time...

But I don't want you to just spend this week....I want you to make this an annual thing for you. Every year....at Easter...I want you to commit the week starting at Good Friday...to allowing you and God to take a selfie. To allow Him to gently but purposefully remove all sin in your life.

BTW.....I made some brownies for the Pot Luck Today. I hope you really enjoy them... Tell them about the Good Friday Seder. Then Pray