

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Exodus 16:31-36

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
June 5, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Introduction:

For generations, the ND Football team and fans ... have engaged in rituals that remind them of the wonder of being part of the Fighting Irish.

- Prior to each game, ND students paint all football helmets gold, using paint containing real gold dust.
- Coming out of the locker room, players slap the famous "Play Like a Champion Today" sign.
- At the conclusion of every home game, the team turns to the student section to salute them by raising their helmets in the air. They do this after a win or after a loss.
- At the conclusion of every home game, the band plays the Alma Mater, "Notre Dame, Our Mother". Those who stay link arms and sing the lyrics. **DOING THIS FOR GENERATIONS.**

WHY? Never forget golden heritage, champions, grateful to be a part of the Fighting Irish.

In our family ... rituals. Monday Family night, special plate.

In God's family ... symbols that remind us of spiritual truth, to remind us for generations to come.

Please open Bibles Exodus 16 ... Page 52. Jar of Manna kept in the Ark of the Covenant in Holy/Holies.

In desert, totally dependent, unable to provide for themselves. Trusting God to provide. They found ... Gods provides everything we need (Phil. 4:19) richly provides everything for our enjoyment (1 Tim 6:17) Not withholding anything. Everything comes from Him. Tasty, miraculous and just enough for each day ...

READ EXODUS 16:31-36.

God provided every day, just enough for one day. Except on Sabbath, God resting.

1) Didn't mean they could sit around and do nothing ... had to go out and gather.

2) Even then, they turned their noses up at what God providesd Ill. Kid ... hated brocolli.

Numbers 11:6-9 (NIV84) ⁶ But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. ⁸ The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a handmill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into cakes. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. ⁹ When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

They got sick of it ... imagine eating the same thing every meal. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Very few of us would want the same thing for lunch every day. Ill. Jerry Formanek ...

Ill. Bubba in Forrest Gump; always talking about shrimp. Served 30 different ways.

Ill. More like the lower class and slaves in Maine late 1700's. Maine.gov website "servants complained because they were forced to eat lobster very often." Contracts limited to 3 x / wk

No matter how they prepared it, it was growing increasingly unappealing.

Olive flavored Krispy Kreme Doughnuts ... YUCK! 40 years, until the day the deliveries stopped.

Joshua 5: (NIV84) ¹⁰ On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. ¹¹ The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. ¹² The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

The twice-daily delivery stopped the moment they ate food from the land. They no longer needed it.

But God, in His wisdom wanted to make sure they would never forget ... JAR OF MANNA.

They needed visible reminders of the miracles God had done to provide for them and sustain them.

This visible reminder of miraculous provision was to be prominently displayed in HOLY OF HOLIES.

Hebrews 9:1-4 (NIV84) Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. ² A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. **This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant**

A jar of manna was kept in the Ark of the Covenant. If Indiana Jones had found the lost Ark. Would have contained the jar of manna.

God gave the Israelites powerful symbols to remind them of His abundant provision (MANNA), His power to deliver them (STAFF) terms for relationship (TABLETS).

God gives us TWO ORDINANCES ... BAPTISM AND COMMUNION VISUAL REMINDERS ... (lest we forget). What MANNA was to Israelites, what the TWO ORDINANCES, Baptism & Communion are to us ...

Baptism reminds us that God's Spirit washes our heart's from sin and regenerates us so we can live transformed lives.

III. 4th grade class Calvary. Does Baptism save? Good question! In order to answer that Question have to understand baptism is defined in two different ways ... **Two kinds ... spirit baptism/water baptism.**

JOHN ... Matt 3:11 (NIV) ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

PAUL ... Water in 1 Cor. 1. 1 Cor 12:13 (NIV) ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Back to the question ... Does baptism save? If it does, which one is it? Water or Spirit?

Titus 3:4-6 (NIV) ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

BAPTISM OF SPIRIT washes us from sin and gives us new hearts to live for God.

But wait, how do you explain what Luke writes in Acts 2:38? ...

Acts 2:38 (NIV) ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If you read Acts, you will find that Acts 2 is about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Spirit baptism saves us.

Baptism reminds us that God's Spirit washes our heart's from sin and regenerates us so we can live transformed lives.

Water baptism is outward picture of inward transformation; Spirit baptism regenerates us.

Communion reminds us that God's Son Jesus paid the penalty for our sins so that we can experience forgiveness and enter into fellowship with God.

Luke 22 Jesus took the Passover meal and explained it's significance, pointing to Himself as the sacrifice that would once for all pay the penalty for sin..

Please turn in your Bibles to Luke 22:14-20 (NIV84) Page 746.

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds

fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you.¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

¹⁹ *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

Reminder that Jesus is the Bread of Life. No life apart from him. Come to the table.

Reminder that Jesus shed His blood as only true sacrifice for sin. No fellowship apart from him.

- Roman Catholic view ... elements are changed into the body and blood of Christ. Transubstantiation ...
- Reformation view ... body and blood of Christ are present and combined with the elements. Consubstantiation ... **“with, in and under”** the bread and cup, but not literally Christ’s body and blood.
- Our View ... The bread and the cup are symbols of His body and blood. A memorial meal. First shared by Jesus with His disciples in the upper room. Reminders, in remembrance of Jesus.

Regardless of your view, it is just as meaningful, and just as miraculous. Jesus body broken, blood shed.

Conclusion ...

Today, witnesses to the power of God’s Spirit to wash and resurrect those who put trust in Him.

And today we find ourselves at the table, ready to celebrate God’s miraculous provision for us.

Visual reminder that we have a seated at the table and given spiritual food, receive Jesus Christ, who will send His Spirit to wash us clean and resurrect us to new life.

If you have the Son you have life, look forward to fellowship with the Father for generations to come.