



Communion Service Table of Expectation

We drink the cup and eat the bread of the Lord's Table not because we are hungry. But because through His death, burial and resurrection He has given us His joy everlasting.

Introduction: This passage is Jesus farewell comments to His disciples. He has washed their feet. Revealed Judas as a traitor. Lead the Passover meal and introduced the New Covenant. Then for about 45 minutes tells them what is going to happen and that the Holy Spirit will be their comforter. Now the hour has come and He says farewell...

A. Expectant Waiting vv. 16-19 What are you waiting for?

1. A little while: v. 16 Jesus was saying that he would be gone for a while but then they would see Him again.

-Not knowing: When I don't know an 'outcome' — I am naturally anxious. It's as if the disciples have forgotten all that Jesus has said about going to Jerusalem to be lifted up for all of mankind. **Yet...they had much to be expectant about:**

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." *John 14:1-3*

B. Expectant Joy vv. 20-22 What is your joy?

1. From sorrow to joy: v. 20 As light shines out of darkness so does joy out of sorrow. It is during sorrow that 'expectancy' is cultivated and matured.

2. Future hope: v. 21 Giving birth is a process that is filled with joy and travail. But without hope in the future it is hard to live in the present. Jesus is here imparting 'hope.'

3. Jesus joy: v. 22 Notice that it is our 'heart' that rejoices. No one can rob us of the joy of Jesus in our hearts.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."
Psalm 30:5 (See also Hebrews 12:2)

C. Expectant Prayer vv. 23-24 What are you asking for?

1. In that day: v. 23 Jesus is speaking to His disciples and bringing clarity to the just-celebrated Passover. The 'day' here is best understood as the day of His resurrection. It also can refer to the entire time between His resurrection and second coming.

2. Ask: There are two different Greek words used for "ask" in these verses. The first one, "Ye shall ask me nothing," means to ask a question. The second 'ask' in vs. 23 means to ask for something. In context Jesus may be referring to the Holy Spirit that the Father would give them...and us.

3. Asking in Jesus name: vs. 24 The bread and the cup of the Lord's Table remind us that we can 'ask' the Father in the name of Jesus and the Holy Spirit will show us the Father's will. Why....because God wants our joy to be full. Not partial...but full...full of grace and power.

John 16:16-24 (KJV)

16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

18 They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.

19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

