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EAT THE WHOLE LAMB

At the first Passover, when the lives of all the children of Israel was at stake, the Lord gave them command to remain in their dwelling and follow strict rules. They shall not eat bread with leavening, and they shall kill a lamb and roast it. They shall take the blood of the lamb and sprinkle it on the lintel and two side posts of their dwellings. Most of all, "And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire, his head, his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire." (Ex.12:8-10) Other instructions were given, but let us understand that this lamb represents Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who was to come to keep death from touching God's people.

So we understand that when Jesus "Took the bread and blessed it, and brake it, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, Drink you all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt.26:26-28), He was talking about Himself as the Passover Lamb of God, who would be slain for the sins of the world. But as in the days of Egypt, this Lamb has to be roasted in the fire, eaten completely, and nothing left until morning. Take my body and eat all of it; take the cup of my blood and drink all of it.

We hear Jesus Himself saying to His disciples, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." (Jn.6:53-57) Truly, this is a lot to take in; Jesus was not mincing words here. These words were addressed to His disciples then, and certainly to those who would follow Him from that time on. Dear ones, this is more than following rules of sacraments; this has to do with a way of life, for indeed from the time we become aware of Jesus as our Savior, to the time we discover that we are maturing sons of God, we are eating the Lamb. We are taking His very life within our beings. Eating the Lamb, means becoming one with His nature now. Through the fire of our daily experiences, (the lamb was roasted only), we are purified as the Word of life changes our nature, into a lamb's nature. Then we learn to lay our lives down for the sheep. We find that it is not through works of power in ourselves, but through submission to God that we become mature sons of God.

From the day that we turned our lives over to Jesus, we began to eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Lamb of God. When we eat the Lamb, we take Him, (the living Word), and chew that Word until we assimilate all that He is, and we become that part of Him. For instance, we first begin to read our Bibles to find His promises to us, and also what He requires of us. This may be like eating the legs of the Lamb; we learn to walk as He walks. We quit smoking and cursing and doing the things that we find opposite of His character. Israel was told to eat all the lamb and the purtenance thereof. The purtenance is the liver, heart and lungs of an animal, so what we must eat are the inner workings of the Lamb of

God. When we think of His heart, we remember the words of Paul, "Set your affection on things above; not on things on earth." (Col.3:2) In other words, "Eat the heart of the Lamb." We have been learning to do this little by little, as He has separated us from the things we thought were good, but were of the earth. In so doing, our hearts, our affection have turned to the things of the Lamb. Our thoughts have been turning to the economy of God's kingdom, and not the politics of man. The liver deals with the blood that passes from the digestive system. It balances, absorbs and assimilates the nutrients. It creates albumen which keeps the blood from seeping into other tissues. It balances blood sugars. It fights diseases, viruses and bacteria. Spiritually speaking, eating the liver means to let what we feed on be processed and cleansed continually. This is the part of the Lamb that discerns and cleanses the life giving nutrients that we ingest into our souls and spirits through what we read and hear. The lungs take in the oxygen from the environment and transfers it to the blood, which in turn, eliminates the gasses from the blood. As we inhale oxygen, the lungs do a "gas exchange" and carry the carbon dioxide out of the blood and out of the body. What a wonderful God who created such a machine! In truth, we cannot accomplish any of these changes ourselves, but it is as our souls desire to change, that He leads us through the entire process. The more we eat the Lamb, (the Word He speaks to our hearts daily), the more the Christ in us rises and takes the lead; the more Christ is formed within us. "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again, until Christ be formed in you." (Gal.4:19)

And so we understand that our walk is a progression in eating the Lamb, not just "learning" about the Lamb, not just admiring and having a love affair with the Lamb, but of becoming the Lamb by eating the Lamb, which means that we experience the Word; we partake of His sufferings, of His being rejected of those who proclaim His name, His aloneness, for even though He was among multitudes, His own disciples did not understand Him or truly know Him. This is why Jesus commanded that as a reminder, we eat the bread as if it were His body, and drink the wine as if it were His blood, and eat and drink ALL of it. At first we only studied about the Lamb, but as He deals with us, and we mature, the experience of eating the Lamb become a way of life. Then we understand that we must eat all the Lamb, including the purtenance thereof. For a time we were "followers" of Christ, but now the last trump is sounding, and the words, "...when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," (I Jn.3:2), take on a new meaning as they come to pass in our lives.

THE PLACING OF SONS- Paul unfolds the timing of the plan that our God appointed for us: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption, (placing), of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba Father." (Gal.4: 4-6) In Hebrew tradition, the son is raised by the mother until the age of thirteen years old when he arrives at a established milestone called his "Bar-Mitzvah," which means "Son of Commandment." At that time, he is no longer under his mother's rule, but he will be groomed to full maturity under the disciplines and ways of his father. This event is marked by a joyous ceremony celebrating the time when this son assumes the rights and obligations of a young adult. This son then takes his place in the worship services. He is no longer treated as a child, but is now an active member of the Jewish community.

As all boys of His day, Jesus was first raised by His mother, according to the Law until the day of His baptism, when He was received as the beloved Son of His true Father. And so the son that is formed in us has to first grow up under the law. "The heir as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the appointed time of the father." (Gal.4:1-2). When we open our hearts to Christ, we begin our journey toward becoming mature sons. The work of becoming new creatures, (sons), begins. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and

all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel, is being preached unto you." (I Pet.1:23-25) By this we understand that we are first born-again by the word of truth that we hear and our hearts witness to. This is the beginning of our "new birth" from above. The baby is being formed in us, as Paul said, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again, until Christ be formed in you." (Gal.4:19) Indeed, when the seed of the word of truth takes root within our spirit and soul, a new creature in the image of the Son of God, begins to take form. But this baby has to be nurtured and raised, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Eph.4:13). This new babe is raised by the mother, (church), under the Law, until the time when he is ready to be totally under the Father. When the child is taken from the mother, there is a separation from the Law of the mother; there is a new discipline and responsibility in the life of the new son. This is the time Paul refers to as the "adoption," or the "placing" of the son under the command of the Father and no longer under the Law of the mother. Hallelujah! Can you see dear ones what this journey has been, and where we are now?

In a previous letter, not long ago, I shared a dream that now with newer understanding, takes on more meaning. "In the dream I was ready for school. I was in a large kitchen for breakfast. There was a counter with stools on one of the kitchen walls, and I went to sit in a corner stool next to a man. I looked at him and lo, it was my father. He looked at me with such love and we sat for a few moments cheek to cheek, just absorbing the love and joy of the moment. However, I knew I still had to go to school as I was close to getting my diploma. I knew that because of this encounter, I was going to be a little late this morning, but that would be just fine because I had been with my father." This dream was so precious to me, because the Lord used my real father whom I loved dearly, as a type of my heavenly Father. This dream let me know that I was still in school and soon to graduate and get my diploma. But, now I had come to the place where I had a closeness with my Father and could feel His love and care of me. The dream is for all among us who are coming to the time of full "sonship." We have been separated from mother church, and placed under the training and discipline of our Father, but we have not yet come to the full measure of the stature of a new man in Christ. This is the **son placing** that has been happening in the entire Body of Christ. We are now being trained as "adults" by the loving discipline of our Father. The appearing of the complete, perfect new creation of sons of God is even at the door, and when it happens, we will truly be one with Father and Son and our vile bodies will be changed into the body of glory which belongs to the incorruptible Seed in us. This is our great consolation at this time, when the entire creation is groaning and travailing in pain, when all we see is misery and hopelessness, we know, "That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have a **strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us; which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." (Heb.6:18-19)

The Son who rises within us daily, is making us free indeed. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...If the son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (Jn.8:32,36) Jesus made the Way for us, and now it is the Son in us who frees us from the Law of sin and death and from death itself. We cannot be fully free until the Son within us becomes of age and takes over. Since the beginning of our walk with Christ, the son growing in us (the new creature formed by the union of our soul with the incorruptible Word of Truth), has been in some way, under the tutoring and teaching of the mother church. It is when he reaches maturity that he is recognized and placed by the Father. This is the time of the "adoption," (son placing), when we, as this new man in spirit, become a son. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your

hearts, crying Abba Father." (Gal.4:6) In times past we may have called on the Father, as Jesus told us to do, but now it is the son in us crying out with all his heart, "Abba Father!"

IF YOU SEE ME... "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how savest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believeth thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake." (Jn.14:9-11) It is to Abraham and his seed that God's promise to bless all the nations of the earth belongs. (Gal.3:16) It is therefore right that Jesus should come to earth as a man of the seed of Abraham, "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels, but he took on him the seed of Abraham." (Heb.2:16) Howbeit, the blood of Jesus was "precious blood." "Foreasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (I Pet.1:18-19). The word "precious" means rare, extremely valuable and beloved. Jesus had no sin or death in His blood. The life of the flesh is in the blood; our blood comes from Adam who had corrupted himself and became mortal. God had told him, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." (Gen.2:17). In that day, Adam's blood became corrupt, and the life of the flesh had death within it. Jesus had no death in His blood for it was the only acceptable sacrifice to God. On the cross, He did not have to die, He laid down His life willingly, and poured out His blood for the sins of the world, and yet the grave could not hold Him.

Jesus is the first Man to ever be indwelt by the Spirit of God. Up to that time, there had been anointed men who could hear the voice of God, but Jesus was the possessor of God's Holy Spirit within. He looked like any other human, and spoke like any other human of that day, but when He was baptized by John, the Spirit as a dove came and dwelt upon Him, signaling that the Spirit of the living God resided in Him. Thus, God announced that Jesus is His beloved Son IN whom He is well pleased. This is why Jesus was such a threat to the established order of Pharisees who were controlling the people by their interpretation of the Law. Jesus was never a threat to the Romans who had invaded the country; He was a threat to the religious order of the day. Jesus declared "Render therefore unto Caesar, the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's." (Lk.20:25). "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." (Phil.2:5-7) Before He became the Word made flesh, Jesus was the Word who created all things and who dwelt in the Father "Before Abraham was, I am." (Jn.8:58). It was by Him that all things were created. "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, (spirit realm), visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by him and for him." (Col.1:16). This is who Jesus Christ is, and we are told that "...he hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, (soul and spirit), in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children, (sons), by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." (Eph.1:3-5). These words are so revealing and yet, we cannot understand the depth of them until He opens our eyes and quickens us in the Spirit. Nevertheless, the day is at hand when as new creatures, we will declare by the life of Christ in us, "He that has seen me, has seen the Father!" This is how Jesus will appear again, for He has formed Himself in a people who will show forth the Glory of the Father in all the earth.

Because He is love, Jackie Caporaso