

MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

Celebrating Rest

TEXT: Heb. 4:1-13, Jn. 14

This morning I want to perform a wedding. It is literally a marriage made in heaven. The wedding is not of a man and a woman, but of two passages of Scripture almost never read jointly, yet which are intimately connected. And one of the things that brings the two together is the Lord's Supper, which obviously, we celebrate today.

But before the wedding, some background is needed; and for that, I need the children to come and join me.

Kids, who remembers what this week, leading up to Easter Sunday is? Holy week or Passion week. And do you remember back two years ago, we spent a couple of months studying Passion week, and looked at each day what the Lord Jesus did, and we gave each day a name reflecting His activities for the day. We called

- Sunday **Son Shine** because Jesus shined His light into the eyes of blind Bartimaeus and into the heart of Zacchaeus.
- Monday **Son Burn** Jesus burned the religious hypocrites of His day for their fake outward religiosity and lack of genuine worship.
- Tuesday **Son Light** Our Lord cast His light on the glorious future of those who trust Him and watch for Him until He comes again.
- Wednesday **The Day the Son Stood Still** Jesus spent the day in prayer, preparing for the cross and received the extravagant adoration of Mary.
- Thursday **Son Beam** Jesus looked toward the coming cross and transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper.
- Friday **Son Up** Jesus must be "lifted up" – crucified on the cross.
- Saturday **Son Down** In the Spirit, Jesus went to Sheol to proclaim His victory over sin and death.
- Sunday **Son Rise** On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. Because Jesus lives, we who trust in Him, even when we die, will still live forever.

This week, we are all involved in the Passion play, showing many of the things that happened during this most important week of Jesus' life. If you are not involved in other ways, I hope you will pass out invitations and bring friends and their parents.

Next Sunday is Easter – Resurrection Sunday, and we will all be celebrating that Jesus rose from the dead and offers us resurrection life as well.

And today, we participate in the Lord’s Supper. Remember that taking the supper is for those who have trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior and made a public profession of their faith in Him. If you have done that, you may take the bread and the cup. If not, then wait until you have. The time will come when God will speak to your heart and give you the opportunity to trust in Christ.

Now we are ready for the wedding, the joining together of our two texts. What are these portions of Scripture? The first is our text from last week, **Hebrews 4** that described to us the rests that God offers:

The rest that comes with salvation. Heb. 4:3 For we who have believed do enter that rest…,

The future eternal rest. Heb. 4:9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

The rest of victory in the midst of running the race He has set before us. Heb. 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

And the second passage is **John 14**.

The rest that comes with salvation. John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The future eternal rest. John 14:2–3 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. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

The rest of victory in the midst of running the race He has set before us. John 14:12,16 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. …¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

And when did Jesus speak these words John records?

During the eating of the Passover with His disciples, which Jesus transformed into the Lord’s Supper we celebrate today.

So in the midst of the Passover, Jesus took the unleavened bread.

Consider carefully His words.

“**This is my body**” – sinless, perfect

“**broken**” – sacrificed, slain

“**for you**” – our sin placed on Him

This is why Jesus alone is the way of salvation. No other was sinless and thus qualified to be our substitute. Upon no other was our sin placed. No other one ever died for all of us. That is why Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me."

"Take, eat" – We must receive Him into our life by trusting in Him.

Jesus brought to us the rest that comes with salvation. He also brought the future rest of eternal life.

Consider also the words Jesus spoke concerning the cup.

"in My blood" – Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.

"the new covenant" – the promise of living with God forever and forever – eternal life

"you drink" – Again, we must receive, we must take Christ in, not by the eating and drinking of the elements but by faith. Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Now before we take the elements of the Lord's Supper, I want us to prepare our hearts and lives.

Those already saved – "let a man examine himself" – repent, confess, resubmit life, at pew or altar

Those not yet saved – Receive Christ. Open the door for Him to come in.

"Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

Now we go out with the Holy Spirit empowering us, sharing the gospel, doing the works God has prepared beforehand for us in Christ, running the race He sets before us, enjoying the rest that comes with victory during each leg of the race. So let us **"proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."**