

Bible Study
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Monongahela, Pa.
THE HOLY EUCHARIST
Session 2

I. REVIEW

- A. What is the meaning of “*remembrance*”? In the original Greek the word is “*anamnesis*”.
- B. God made a covenant with Abraham, it was renewed with Moses. What was the covenant?

What was the sign of the covenant?

What ritual “sealed” or “completed” the covenant once the people were freed from Egypt?
(see Exodus 24 p. 96)

- C. What is a “*type*” in the Bible? Can you give an example of an Old Testament “*type*” that is fulfilled in the New Testament?

II. NEW TESTAMENT TYPES

- A. With the coming of Christ, the new covenant is slowly revealed through more “*types*”.

- B. Birth of Jesus: what details of His birth begin to reveal this new covenant?

Bethlehem – What is the meaning of its name?

Where was the infant Jesus placed after His birth?

- C. The wedding at Cana (John 2 p. 1424) How are the details of this miracle a “*type*” of the coming new covenant?

- D. Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6 p. 1434) How are the details of this miracle a “*type*” of the coming new covenant?

III. THE NEW COVENANT

- A. read Matthew 26:17-30 (p. 1320) Explain to someone who has no knowledge of Christianity what is this new covenant Jesus has inaugurated.
- B. Curiously, St. John does not record the story of Jesus instituting the Holy Eucharist at the Mystical Supper. He never records Jesus words “*Take and eat....All of you drink of this...*” Why do you think he omitted this?

But in chapter 6, he carefully records Jesus’ long explanation of the meaning of the Mystical Supper

read John 6:30-70 (p. 1435)

1. One way to read the Bible is to focus on or highlight God’s promises to us.
What are the verses in this section in which Jesus give you and me a promise.

What is the promise?

Are there any conditions that have to be met to receive the promise?

2. What from this chapter seems to indicate that Jesus did not intend the Eucharist to be seen as a *symbol* of His body and blood?
3. A Protestant would disagree by saying: “*Jesus also said ‘I am the door...’ does that mean Jesus becomes a six foot plank of wood?*” How do we respond?

- C. read Luke 24:13-35 (p. 1415) Why might Luke and Cleopas be leaving Jerusalem

1. Why do you think they didn't recognize it was Jesus walking with them?
2. How did Jesus try to reveal Himself to them?
3. What finally worked?
4. What is significant about the description of the event in verse 30?
5. How does this story reflect the two parts of the Divine Liturgy?

For reflection: What has helped me recognize Jesus walking alongside me when I'm down?
Time alone with God? Reading inspiring parts of the Bible?
Talking it out with someone? Having a few drinks? The Holy Eucharist?
Getting away from the situation?

From the Holy Fathers: "And no one should doubt that His being recognized in the breaking of the bread is the sacrament, which brings us together in recognizing Him."

St. Augustine, bishop of Hippo (430 AD)
Letter 149

IV. THE FUTURE KINGDOM

A. Name a yearly ritual that occurs in every home involving candles, ritual food and a ritual song.

1. How does this ritual celebrate the past:

The present:

The future:

B. The Eucharist which Jesus initiated also

Re-presents the past:

How does this differ from "represent"?

Celebrates a present reality:

Anticipates the future:

C. Jesus revealed what the future Kingdom would be like:

read Matthew 8:11 (p. 1281)

Luke 22:28-30 (p. 1409)

D. The Divine Liturgy is the beginning of this Great Banquet; the first course!

E. The Divine Liturgy anticipates when evil and the devil will be destroyed and God will reign supreme over the universe.

read Revelation 19:1-9 (p. 1741)

read the footnote on page 1741 "*A wedding in the Middle East...*"