The Last Meal

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 9th, 2022

Text: Colossians 3:16-17

### Intro

1. Have you ever thought about what your last meal might be? *What it might say about you?*
2. Many prisons allow death row inmates a last meal a couple days up to 4 hours before execution.
   1. This last meal practice for the condemned dates back to the Greeks, followed by the Romans, and up through history until today!
   2. Jesus’ last meal was the Passover Feast with His apostles (Matthew 26:17-29).
   3. Should I ever be given a last meal before an execution for crimes I may or may not have committed, I would make it a juicy, medium-cooked steak, loaded baked potato, and asparagus in drawn butter (Possibly laced with cumin, because it wouldn’t matter then!)
   4. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2009/11/can-a-prisoner-request-anything-for-his-last-meal.html>
   5. <https://www.mylawquestions.com/what-are-the-restrictions-placed-on-a-last-meal.html>
3. While a planned last meal has thought given to it, some people don’t get to plan their last meals, because life is fragile and can end in a host of tragic ways.
   1. As is often depicted in crime thrillers and TV shows, a Coroner or Medical Examiner (ME) may need to conduct an autopsy to discover what the person’s last meal was to help aid detectives or field agents in solving a mystery.
   2. In programs, the ME sometimes remarks that the person ate poorly or was well fed.
   3. It is my hope, should something like that befall me, that my last meal would be Becky’s pork tenderloin in fig sauce, couscous, and asparagus meal! (I would want the ME to exclaim, “He was well fed!”
4. Now that you may be thinking of what you would like your last meal to be, and perhaps what someone would remark of it, now think about what you would want God to think of your last eternal meal…
   1. Would God condemn you on your steady diet of:
      1. Worldly things (the allurements of the world)
      2. Worldly cares
      3. Human Philosophy
      4. Man-made religions, creeds and traditions
   2. Or, would God commend you for your steady diet of:
      1. The Bread of Heaven
      2. The Eternal Water of Life
      3. Things that are honorable and pure
      4. Spiritual things that focus one’s eyes on Heaven
5. If you were to meet God today in judgment, what would He say about your last meal?

#### Last Meal of Worldly Feast

* 1. Worldly Allurements
     1. Matthew 16:26: Jesus asked,
        1. “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
     2. I John 2:15-17:
        1. Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
     3. Jude 1:19:
        1. These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.
  2. Worldly Cares
     1. Matthew 13:22: The Thorny Soil Christian becomes unfruitful
        1. “And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”
     2. Mark 4:18-19: The Thorny Soil Christian becomes unfruitful
        1. “And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”
     3. Luke 8:14: The Thorny Soil Christian becomes unfruitful
        1. “The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”
  3. Human Philosophy
     1. I Corinthians 1:19-21: The wisdom of this world can’t save anyone!
        1. For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.” Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
        2. Paul quotes from Isaiah 29:14
        3. Aristides “The Just” (530-468 BC) was an Athenian statesman who once said of Corinth, “On every street corner in Corinth one could meet a so-called wise man, who had his own solutions to humanity’s problems.”
     2. I Corinthians 3:18-20: The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God
        1. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS;” (quoted from Job 5:13) and again, “THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.” (Ps. 94:11)
     3. I Timothy 6:20-21:
        1. O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.
  4. Man-made Religions (Creeds & Traditions)
     1. After telling the Pharisees that they were “experts at setting aside the commandment of God” in order to keep their traditions (Mark 7:9), Jesus said their traditions being taught as precepts (NKJV: “commandments”) of men was vain worship (Matthew 15:8-9). The context was eating without washing hands. Jesus said it is what comes out of a person that defiles (Matthew 15:11)
     2. His apostles told Him the Pharisees were offended at this, and Jesus replied in in Matthew 15:13-14:
        1. But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”
     3. I Corinthians 3:11:
        1. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
     4. Galatians 1:6-9:
        1. I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!
  5. Feasting on worldly things starves the soul and makes one unfruitful and can cause one to lose their soul!

#### Last Meal of Eternal Feast

* 1. Bread of Heaven
     1. John 6:35: Jesus said He was The Bread of Heaven (John 6:30-34) and Life
        1. Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”
     2. Colossians 3:16-17
        1. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
  2. Eternal Water
     1. John 4:12-14: Jesus said He was Eternal Water and those who drink from Him will never thirst!
        1. “You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”
     2. Revelation 22:17:
        1. The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.
  3. Things that are honorable and pure
     1. Philippians 4:8:
        1. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.
     2. Titus 2:11-14:
        1. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
  4. Spiritual things that focus one’s eyes on Heaven:
     1. Colossians 3:1-3:
        1. Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
     2. Hebrews 12:1-3:
        1. Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
  5. Feasting on eternal things feeds the soul and focuses one on Heaven!

## Conclusion

1. Colossians 3:16-17: The feast for the Christian…
   1. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
2. We may not all get to choose our last physical meal, but we, in a time of resolutions, can resolve to choose a diet of an eternal feast with eternal rewards!
3. Will God say of you, “He/She ate poorly” or will He say, “He/She was well fed!”?
4. If not a Christian, you need to be! Don’t wait! Repent and be baptized ***NOW!***
5. If a Christian in error, make the corrections needed ***NOW!*** Repent & be renewed!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!