In most auditoriums where the saints of God meet on the Lord’s Day there are two cups, two loaves, and two tables waiting for those who have come to the assembly. One cup, one loaf, and one table have been put there by the Lord. The other cup, the other loaf, and the other table have been put there by the Lord’s adversary, the Devil who is the prince of the demons. The Lord’s Table is visible to everyone assembled. The demons’ Table is invisible but it is there just as surely as is the visible Lord’s Table. Some of those in attendance on the Lord’s Day sat at the demons’ table, drank from the demons’ cup and ate of the demons loaf on the other six days of the week before they ever entered the door of the meeting place. Others wait until the church assembles on the Lord’s Day.

I Corinthians 10 says there are two tables – one is the “Lord’s” and the other is the “demons”; there are two “loaves” – one is the “Lord’s” and the other is the “demons”; and, there are two “cups” – one is the “Lord’s” and the other is the “demons.” Only one table, one cup and one loaf have any spiritual legitimacy but the prince of the demons has no reservation in counterfeiting them with his table, his loaf, and his cup just as he does with the Lord’s “one baptism.” Like I say, you can’t see the counterfeit table, the counterfeit loaf, or the counterfeit cup, but they are there right alongside the real table, the real loaf, and the real cup.

What is true of the table, the cup and the loaf is also true of those who place their feet under the visible table. There are those who come to the Lord’s Table who really are followers of Christ and there are those who come who, in all truthfulness, are followers of the prince of the demons. I know this is a horrible thing to say but it is true. If this was done in the days of Jesus, and it was, it ought not to be unthinkable that it could and would be done today by some who are demonically influenced. Consider the first table – the Table of the Lord.

This table can be found in all four gospel accounts. It was the time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jesus gave instructions to Peter and John in Luke 22:8 to “Go and prepare the Passover for [Jesus and His Apostles] that [they] may eat.” Five verses later, Luke 22:13, it is written that “they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.” Then “When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.” You should not overlook that all twelve of the Apostles sat at the Lord’s Table with the Lord. Before all of that happened, however, something else had already taken place. “Satan [had] entered Judas,” one of those twelve Apostles. “So he [Judas] went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them...So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.” Before Judas
ever got to the Lord’s Table he had already pulled up a chair at the demons’ table and made his deal with their prince.

Jesus made a pronouncement at His table that got everyone’s attention. In John 13:21 He said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” Judas must have known when Jesus said that, what he had done earlier had not been done in secret. But it is written that “the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.” Matthew 26:25 says that “Judas, who was betraying Him [had the unmitigated gall to ask,] ‘Rabbi, is it I?’” And Jesus “said to him, ‘you have said it.’” Judas was “perplexed” about not who it was who would be the betrayer – he knew it was him, and he knew that Jesus knew that it was him – but how in the world did Jesus find out? He had been careful not to let Jesus or any of the other Apostles see him as he collected the cash. Revealing to the betrayer that He knew who the betrayer was “Jesus answered, ‘It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.’ And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him.” And “having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.”

“...it was night” – not just as far as the time of day was concerned, but more importantly as far as Judas’ deed was concerned. His deed could not have been any darker than it was. One wonders if Judas remembered the words of Jesus in John 3:19 – 20. “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deed should be exposed.”

The betrayer had come to the Lord’s Table with all the other Apostles but he didn’t stay with them. “...he...went out immediately.” His feet had been at the Lord’s Table but his heart was at the table of demons. He did not eat of the Lord’s loaf or of the Lord’s cup. He had already eaten and drunk the loaf and the cup of the demons. Their table had been more inviting.

I can’t help but wonder if there are people who come to the Lord’s Table on the Lord’s Day who are so full of the loaf and the cup of demons that they really have no appetite for the Lord’s loaf and cup. Oh, they may eat and drink from the Lord’s Table but because they already are so full of the food and the drink of demons the Lord’s Supper is not all that appetizing. They could skip it and not really miss it. And some do miss it – willfully while others, perhaps, are so much anticipating eating and drinking at the table of demons as soon as they leave the holy assembly of the saints that their appetite for the Lord’s meal is deadened even before they arrive.

All of this is in the hands of the Lord, of course. We are not spiritually equipped to discern who, if any, has come to the sacred table after they have already filled themselves with that of the counterfeit table. But we can ask ourselves, “Is it I?” In fact, we must examine ourselves if we are to avoid eating and drinking “judgment to [ourselves].” Have we dined so much and so often at the table of demons during the past week that we have lost our appetite for the Table of
the Lord? If so, we need to repent. Is the demon’s table more attractive and appetizing to us than the Lord’s Table? If so, we need to repent. Do we already know that we are going to return to the demon’s table as soon as we leave the Lord’s Table? If so, we need to repent. Paul told the church at Corinth that “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s Table and of the table of demons.” Some people try but it cannot be done. The Lord knew what Judas had done before ever coming to His table. The Lord knew what Judas was going to do after leaving His table. The Lord knows the same thing about us. This is a fearful thing to think about but there is no better place to think about these things than at the Lord’s Table.

Judas could have repented as he sat with Jesus and the other eleven Apostles but he didn’t. He could have confessed to the Lord his evil deed but he didn’t. He could have prayed for the Lord’s forgiveness and he would have received it, but he didn’t. Just before he died at the end of a rope Judas may have remembered the words of the Lord spoken at His table in Matthew 26:24. “...woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.” We are reminded week after week by what is spoken and by what is written in holy writ that we are to do this in remembrance of Him. One way to remember Him is to remember His words including those terrible words that He spoke to each of His Apostles in Matthew 26:24 but in particular to the one who had already betrayed him.

I suppose everyone here has come to the table of our Lord today having at the least disappointed Christ in the last week. And as much as Judas needed it, we too need Christ’s mercy and forgiveness. There is no better place and there is no better time than here and now to let Him know of our need for His grace and to worship Him for it.

A crown of thorns and a purple robe; somebody fashioned them both. Somebody platted that bloody crown; somebody fashioned that gaudy gown. Somebody fashioned them both.

A crown of thorns and a purple robe; it was so long ago.

They wove the vestments He so meekly wore; they platted the crown He so meekly bore.

It was so long ago.

A crown of thorns and a purple robe; I read the words with a sigh.

And when I think of my own misdeeds my soul awakes, and my conscience pleads.

And I say to myself, it was I.

Prayer

Father in heaven please do not allow us to come to your table professing to be a follower of Christ when we have eaten at the demons table as a follower of their prince. Convict us of our sins and move us to repent of them. Your table is a visible reminder to us of the only hope that we have to be right in your sight. It is only by the blood of your Son Jesus that we can be presented to You acceptably. We do thank You for Him, His sacrifice for us, His resurrection from the grave, and His promise to return for us someday. It is in His name that we offer this prayer to you, God Almighty, the creator of heaven and earth and everything that fills it. Amen.