Have you ever looked very closely at the Lord’s Supper table? I don’t mean have you ever looked at it through spiritual eyes; but, I mean have you ever looked at the physical, material table upon which we place the bread and the cup? For some time now I have stared at this table while those who serve at it either pray or deliver their “meditation” and have used its physical construction to help me focus upon the significance of this supper. My mind has been “struck” with the visual message that is proclaimed by the configuration of the table. There are at least seven features of this table that communicate an important message about the supper.

FIRST, the table’s surface is flat and smooth. I have thought about this for some time and have been reminded that it was the ministry of John the Baptist that prepared the way for the Lamb of God whom we remember at this table. In describing John the forerunner, Luke has written in his gospel that John was “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” (Luke 3:4 – 6) The next time you look at the table’s surface think of how John prepared the way for Christ.

SECOND, this table has four legs upon which the surface of the table rests. This has reminded me that each of the four gospel records – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – support the doctrine of the Lord’s Supper; i.e., each gospel writer has recorded the history of the establishment of the Lord’s Supper that was almost immediately followed by the death and the resurrection of Christ.

THIRD, like all other four-sided tables there are four corners to this table. This is a reminder to us of Christ’s universal call to all men from the four corners of the earth to join Him each Lord’s Day at His table. “Whosoever will” may come to this table to eat His body and drink His blood. As we are about to do so, think of the millions of people from the four corners of the earth who will come to this table today and who will do the same thing that we do in this hour. There is a universal fellowship that takes place at this table.

FOURTH, even the material from which this table is made reminds us of Jesus. Our table is made of wood – not plastic, nor some metal – but wood. In typology wood is a “type” representing man. And even though Jesus is God, He was God incarnate – God Almighty housed in human flesh. The Hebrew writer wrote that “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same . . . .” (Hebrews 2:14)

FIFTH, the table that we use for the Lord’s Supper, though very attractive, is also very plain. There is nothing showy
or gaudy or ostentatious about this table. Isaiah wrote in chapter 53 and verse 2 concerning the coming Christ that “He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.”

SIXTH, unlike many Lord’s Supper tables, the table that we use has no inscription in its wood apron or skirting. Some tables are inscribed with the words, “This do in remembrance of Me” or “This do in remembrance of Him.” This absence of any wording is a vivid and visual reminder to me, at least, that whether or not these words are inscribed in the wood of the table is not all that important in the eternal scheme of things for they are inscribed eternally in the Word of the Teacher. Luke’s record of the institution of this supper tells us that Jesus spoke these words, “do this in remembrance of Me.” And, Paul records these same words in I Corinthians 11:25. The inscription of these words in the wood of a temporal, man-made table will not endure as long as their inscription in the eternal, God-inspired Word.

LASTLY, the table upon which the bread and the cup are set has been beautifully stained. This is where the similarity between our Lord’s Table and our Lord end for our Lord was without stain of any kind. He “was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15) “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us . . . .” (II Corinthians 5:21) Jesus is without the stain of sin. He is as unique in this way as is the purpose of our assembling at His table.

The table that stands before us is a delight for us to look upon. It is obviously the product of a master carpenter. It reminds me of our Master who too was a carpenter. I probably will not look at another Lord’s Table without remembering that tables constructed such as ours is a wonderful, visual reminder of these seven things and perhaps even more.