

# Celebrating the Lord's Supper

## Acts 20:7-12

### Introduction:

1. The Lord's Supper is called by different names:
  - a. Eating the Lord's Supper
  - b. Partaking the Lord's Supper
  - c. Observing the Lord's Supper
  - d. **Eucharist**, from the Greek word εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteo*, which means *to give thanks*, which is what Christ did when He instituted this church ordinance (Luke 22:19).
  - e. Celebrating the Lord's Supper
2. What about the Lord's Supper would make some people refer to it as a Celebration?
  - I. Acts 20:7-12 - Paul's long sermon (I have seen many things happen during the Lord's Supper that cause disruptions and make it difficult to concentrate. But I have never witnessed what happened to Paul in Acts 20.)
    - A. Paul had an Elijah (the widow's son: 1 Kings 17:17-24) and Elisha (the Shunammite's son: 2 Kings 4:18-37) moment, and opportunity to raise the dead.
    - B. Many jokes about this incidence of long-winded preaching, or Paul's message being deadly.
    - C. On the first day of week, prolonged sermon, Eutychus a young man fell asleep, fell out the window and died. (Acts 20:7-9)
      1. One can imagine the scene: Preaching, Eutychus' head bobbing, "sinking into a deep sleep," Paul kept on preaching, then a "thud!," and people scrambling to render aid to Eutychus .
      2. The cries of "He's dead!" Paul undeterred from finishing his message went to Eutychus and raised him from the dead.
      3. Then the cheers, celebration, excitement and laughter as Eutychus comes back upstairs (probably not sitting by the window again). (Acts 20:9-12) - By the way, **Eutychus means "fortunate."**
  - II. The Lord's Supper is a cause of celebration:
    - A. We come together to remember the Lord and His sacrifice (Matthew 26:26-28)
      1. Bread = His sinless body
      2. Fruit of the vine = which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins
    - B. The fact that Jesus did not stay in the tomb is a cause for celebration:
      1. Imagine the joy around Jerusalem, just minutes into Resurrection Sunday. "He's alive!" shouts Mary. "He's alive!" screams John. "He is alive," confirms Peter. "He's alive?" asks the governor. "He's alive!" screams the city. History was changed with just such a cry, and every time we take the bread and cup, we pick up the cry.
      2. And what a powerful thought. All who have partaken of this bread, and this cup as believers and yet died ... are alive. Is there any greater joy of knowing that one you grieve for isn't dead at all, but alive? What a relief, what a joy inexpressible. What a life-changing truth. Today, as you partake of an incredibly symbolic meal, remember the truth: He is alive!

### Conclusion:

1. What a beautiful ending to the scripture. After "breaking bread," "the people took the young man home alive, and were greatly comforted." They'd almost lost one they loved, but now he was alive.
2. We "Celebrate" Jesus's Supper for several reasons:
  - a. Sinless body - representing a perfect sacrifice for us
  - b. Shedding of blood - which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins
  - c. The Lord's resurrection - gives us hope of life eternal