

“ROASTED LAMB ANYONE?”

Jay Lockhart

When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, he did it during the Passover meal on a Wednesday or Thursday evening, depending on how one calculates the days of the final week of Jesus’ ministry. We know from Scripture the things that were used by Israel to celebrate the Passover: a roasted lamb or kid; unleavened bread; wine, the fruit of the vine; a sort of pasta or salad; and bitter herbs were included. When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper he used the unleavened bread and the cup, the wine or fruit of the vine, to represent his body and his blood. Bible students know this. When the first century church came together on the first day of the week, or the Lord’s Day, to observe the Supper in memory of Christ, we believe they used unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. Through the centuries these elements have been used in the Lord’s Supper and today we break unleavened bread and drink of the cup, the fruit of the grape, to remember Jesus’ death until He comes again. Now, my question is this: would it be acceptable to add some roasted lamb to the Supper? After all, roasted lamb was present when Jesus instituted the Supper and I like roasted lamb! And Jesus did not say not to use roasted lamb! Not one person in a thousand would agree with this line of reasoning ... and neither do I. However, there are people today who use this kind of reasoning to add other things to worship that are neither authorized nor specifically forbidden. We use unleavened bread *because that’s what Jesus used*. Others reason like this: since Jesus instituted the Supper on a weekday, we may take of it any day of the week? Our reply is that the first century church assembled

on the first day of the week to observe the Supper and that's when we should partake of it. The recourse given by some is: "Examples are not binding upon us, so we may observe the Supper whenever we want to do it." I would offer this rebuttal: if an example (an action of the early church based upon a commandment -- "Do this in remembrance of me" -- is the command and "Upon the first day of the week the disciples came together to break (the) bread" is the action) is not binding upon us, why do we use unleavened bread? We use unleavened bread *because Jesus said it* (the unleavened bread as used in the Passover) was his body. No command about "unleavened," just his example. We would do well to do what is authorized and leave other things alone. Roasted lamb anyone?