

Deleavening for the Spring Holy Days - Stephan Willshaw

Well, good afternoon, everybody. Good to be here.

As I said earlier, in the opening prayer, we have a few Not well today.

So we're missing I wouldn't say half of our congregation, but quite a few. Well this is the time of year when we all start to think about something that's just ahead of us. Start to think about spring. And that warmer weather once again.

We had our window open last night at our place and it certainly wasn't summertime but it's kind of refreshing but this year the official first day of spring when the spring equinox shows up on the scene it's when the days are the light is the same like the time as the daylight that's what the equinox tells us in springtime

The year, according to our calendar that we're using, is going to happen on March the 20th this year, March the 20th, which isn't too far away. What is it? A week and one month, I guess it is. So with the spring days approaching, we become mindful, of course, of the Passover and the days of 11 bread and all the thought and effort that comes with the preparation of those days.

So,

the very mention of the word de -leavening comes to mind with,

not going to say many Christians, but a few Christians, ones that are careful with the Word of God. And getting ready for these spring days, these spring holy days is best when we can slowly consume and use up all of these leaven products that we've brought into our house during the whole year right because we've accumulated it all so what I want to bring today in this short message concerns the process of the preparation of course the Passover and days of unleavened bread so

my title for today is this and you can call it several different things I suppose maybe getting ready for the spring holy days could be one but I'm calling it the eleavening for the spring holy days that's all we're going to talk about today

there's lots to talk about on other messages too so the right approach is to arrive with the Passover in days of 11 bread with what? A positive mindset with the physical and spiritual energy that we need to be able to learn and take in the lessons of the Passover and as well the night to be much remembered or a night to be much observed and the feast of unleavened bread.

This is what God intends us to do. So let's start off by looking at why.

Why was de -leavening? Why do we de -leavening?

Let's turn to Exodus the 12th chapter for that. Now, in that word, I just mentioned to you, D -E -E -L -E -A -V -E, that does not appear, D -E -E -L -E -A -V -E, that does not appear in the book. And this doesn't appear in the scriptures.

And God's original command to Israel on this subject does appear in Exodus the 12th chapter.

51 verse there. We're not going to read them all. Look at verse 1 and I quote.

Exodus 12 verse 1 and the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, this month shall be the beginning,

shall be to you rather, the beginning of months. It's the beginning of months, not January, this month. It doesn't tell you what month it is, but it's a month of

Abbe. You won't find that show up until, I think it's, I think it's X, I think it's X is 13 somewhere, that month shows up or it names it. It shall be the beginning to you of months, and it shall be the first month of the year to you. Then God, end of quote, then God proceeds to give them the instructions on how to keep the Passover. Then in verse 15, in verse 19, God gives this command. Exodus 12, verse 15, seven days, he says there, you you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever gets leavened bread from the first day, or should be eats, whoever eats unleavened bread from the first, the typo on my pardon, whoever eats unleaven bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. Verse 19, for seven days, no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger or a native of the land. So the simple answer is to the question, Why should God's people de leaven? And that's because God actually tells us to do so. Let's read the answer here in Exodus 12, same chapter. Down a little further, verse 17, Exodus 12, verse 17, and I quote, So you shall observe the feast of. Now you notice that's an Alex there. The Feast of Unleavened bread, for on this same day I have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. In verse 39, and they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves. And a quote. Now, I mentioned the vista. That is not in the original Hebrew, in verse 17, but were added later by the translators to clean it up a little bit, to understand it better. God says that his people are to keep the annual practice of the leavening because he brought ancient Israel out of Egypt. We find later that this great miraculous event symbolized, freeing his New Testament church from what? From sin, yeah. So we just said that. Freeing them from sin. Many scriptures show that both Egypt and rather Levin are symbols of sin. Yeah. Did God really intend his people to observe this practice forever? Because we find that back in the O .T. Right? Old Testament. As we read in verse 17, Or was it nailed to the cross, as we hear so many times in mainstream? Now, these three scriptures from the early church after Jesus' crucifixion shows us that indeed there is a New Testament practice for doing this. Let's have a look at that. I'm going to quote three scriptures here for you now. Let's go to Acts to 12th chapter. Acts of 12th chapter. This was after Jesus' crucifixion, by the way. Acts 12 and verse 3. We're going to stay in Acts and go to 20 next. So, Acts 12 and verse 3, and I quote, and because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was when? During the days of unleavened bread. So it was taking place. The days of unleavened bread were taking place there. Acts

20, verse 6 this time.

A little bit later, and I quote, Acts 20 verse 6, but we sailed away from Philippi. After when? After the days, Acts 20, verse 6, after the days of unleavened bread.

And in five days, and in five days, join them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. And our last quote is from 1 Corinthians 5, a little bit further ahead now. 1 Corinthians 5, 6 to 8.

1 Corinthians 5, 6 to 8, and it starts off there. Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leavened the whole lump? Then's in a question mark. Verse 7, therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump since you are truly unleavened, for Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with all leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

End quote. Well, we know that Jesus kept the Feast of Unleavened bread, and perhaps what is more important for our example, these scriptures prove that his early New Testament church kept it after his death, resurrection, and ascension. So what about this process of de -leavening.

Where should we de -leaven?

Well, Exodus 12 versus 15 and 19. Let's turn there.

I think we've been there already, haven't we?

Let's turn there. I think I've been there already. Let's see here, 15 and 19. No?

Okay.

Let me read that for Exodus 12, 15, 7 days you usually eat on leavened bread. On the first day,

you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats on leavened bread, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Exodus 12, that was verse 15. Now down to 19.

For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses since whoever eats what is leavened that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel I didn't read this one before whether he was a stranger or a native of the land and Exodus 13 just one chapter ahead expands on this Exodus 13 and verse 7 on leavened bread

is to be eaten for seven days and no leavened bread shall be seen among you in all your quarters so God instructs his instructions show that we are to de leaven in all the areas that we are responsible for in which we live The question is,

where do our quarters exist? Our cars, our homes, are places where we have eaten. Now,

there's places in our house that we don't eat, so we don't worry about the 11th there. I'm not saying it's a critical mess all the time, but we don't treat that

as something we need to perform for the days of unleavened bread. So, So you know what? It's a physical exercise, isn't it? This de -leavening is a physical exercise with a spiritual focus attached to it. Remove all the physical leaven.

And while we are thinking about a spiritual situation here, while we're removing the leaven in these places that we're cleaning up physically, We should be spiritually thinking, where am I life?

Do I need to remove what? Leaven? No, sin. Remove sin.

That's what it really is. Exactly what should we put off our property for this duration of the seven days when I'm having bread. What is leaven? What is this physical leavened we're talking about?

What are leavening agents and leavening products would be another answer. It's something that swells up by the process of fermentation.

The type of leavening to get rid of could be things that you put in bread, cakes, cookies, things like that. Specifically being baking powder, baking soda, and yeast, or anything that has this in its content.

Now, the beer yeast, I don't know if anybody makes beer here, but that's not included. It's a different kind of yeast. Now, maybe some of this is new to most.

For others in this congregation, it's a reminder. We need to have a reminder at peace once a year. So that's whatever we're going over this. So with both physical and spiritual de-leavening, we have to do our best. Okay?

We have to do our best. And when we don't exactly become perfect at it, we ask for God's grace, that covers the rest of it. But we do our best. And you know what? We grow in this whole situation. You don't do perfect the first few years you do it. You grow into it, you get better at it as you do it. So who? Who should do the de-leavening? Of course my wife should do it all, right?

Now to the answer the question correctly, we must remember what leavened pictures and the simple question of that is obvious. Each one of us has to rid ourselves of what? Personal Personal leaven or sin. So it's always a part in the de-leavening process for not just Sandy, but for me as well. For everybody. Everybody wants to get rid of sin. Everybody wants to get rid of leaven in their lives. So that's really the way to look at it. So assist your spouse. Assist your maid with this de-leavening process. It's a spiritual process, right?

So When should we begin 2D .11?

Good question.

Maybe what is more important, when should we have the job finished?

Again, Exodus 12 and verse 15 provides the answer. Seven days,

I quote, Exodus 12, 15, seven days you shall eat on leaven bread. On the first day, you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats unleavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person is going to be cut off from the house of Israel.

So, question, does God really want us to be de-leavening? Think about this, I just read it to you. Does God really want us to be de-leavening on the first day of unleavened bread, which is an a holy day.

No, he doesn't want us to be doing it down.

So verse 16 clarifies what it means. Exodus 12,

verse 16. On the first day, there shall be a holy convocation. We're going to be meeting here, by the way. And on the seventh day, there should be another holy congregation for you. We won't be meeting here. That day. Hopefully, we'll be going somewhere, but not here. No matter of work should be done on these two days. These are annual holy days, the first two holy days of the year. But that which everyone

must eat, that only must be prepared by you. So we don't want to be doing an ED-leaving on that day. The first day is the holy days we talked about, and it's a commanded assembly, right? And there should be no work done a day other than the fact maybe of just preparing some food maybe breakfast and what we do back here at the end at the end of the Sabbath that should all is a day of rest okay now the phrase on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses might be better translated like this you shall have you shall have removed leaven from your houses by the first day. That's probably a better translation.

Exodus 12 and verse 18 makes it even more clearer. Exodus 12, I'll read down to 20. From 18 to 20, I quote, In the first month on the 14th day of the month at evening, you shall eat eat on leaven bread until the 21st day of the month at evening.

Verse 19, for seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. The last verse, verse 20, you shall eat nothing leaven in all your dwellings. You shall eat unleavened bread end of quote all leavened must be off our property I got no volume there our leaven should be off our property by sunset that closes the month that we refer to as Abib or Nissan

this sunset marks the night to be much observed and the beginning of the first day of unleavened bread. However, choose to have your de leavening done and completed before the Passover actually starts. Do that. That's why I'm giving this message now, six, five weeks prior to Passover. Okay. So we should permit no leaven on our property until after sunset that closes Abib 21, which is the last day of unleavened bread. This year in 2026, we should have our de-leavening completed all, all leavening off our property by the evening, no later than Thursday, April 1st. Just double-check your calendars on that. Give us some thought. I'm sure you'll be just fine with it. We should begin our de-leavening, of course.

Or when should we begin our de-leavening? Once should we do this, actually. Of course, the circumstances differ. So the hard and fast rule would be not applied to all church members exactly the same way, but less, we are getting very close.

We should all be starting to plan right now for our physical and spiritual preparations. Consider the following as you plan. I'm going to read this to you here. Think about this. When is the last garbage pickup at your place before the feast of unleavened bread? And don't forget the vacuum bags inside the vacuum.

That's containing most of your leaven. It's all the got to be put out of your house. So think of that. I think I forgot that last year, as a matter of fact.

It's easy to do. It's out of sight, out of mind sometimes.

Where can we deposit, if we have to, where can we deposit discarded 11 products After that last pickup, get that in your brain too. I've done that a few years.

Do we have enough vacuum cleaner bags and the necessary supplies to do this job? When would be the best time to put aside maybe even a serious day of fasting for all this? I'm not saying that's required. But it's a good idea to think about that.

Do I need to fast about this? Is there any particular problem that I personally should examine? I don't talk about the dust on the floor and the leaven. I'm talking about the sin, the personal sin that I need to actually personally clean out of my life. That's what we want to do. So do I have anything personal like this that I need to examine before I start this holy day season is coming up to end de leavening may be new for some but for the rest maybe it's a timely reminder done properly they help us look forward to the upcoming feast of unleavened bread with the proper mindset enthusiastic and balanced in our preparations with the accent being on the spiritual meaning behind the physical and symbolic act of the elevating. So if you've got any questions, don't be afraid to ask somebody here that has done it many times. That is the best way to do it. I just want to bring this message to get us focused on it. Start eating up your Leavening, start looking where the leavening is. Ask Sandy about all this because she's pretty good at it. She only puts all the leavening during the year in a certain place. So when it comes to cleaning the leavening out, we know exactly how much there is there at all is right there. It's not all over the place. It's not in every cupboard of our house. It's just in certain areas. It's really a fantastic way of doing it. So just ask around if you're unsure and let's get ready for the Passover and days of unleavened bread. I hope that was helpful.