

WHO SAT WITH JESUS AT THE LORD'S TABLE?

Luke 22:14

Introduction: Upon one's profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, there follows baptism, being immersed in water, not sprinkled, not poured, but immersed, indicating one has been "reborn" into the Kingdom of God. Then for the believer there is a time when he/she partakes of the Lord's Supper which is a picture of the sufferings of the Lord for all who believe, and in partaking of the Lord's Supper, all join together in fellowship with one another and the Lord Jesus. Even this beautiful observance has been changed through the centuries to where it is no longer what it started out to be. Going back to the original supper will perhaps enlighten on what really took place and who was there.

I. JESUS SAT AT A TABLE TO EAT AND DRINK WITH HIS 12 APOSTLES

1. Jesus had called them one by one and had said unto each one, "*...Follow Me...*" therefore those who sat with Jesus were His FOLLOWERS.
 - Thus a qualification to sit at the Lord's Table today is to be a "follower."
2. Being followers of Jesus, the 12 then came to be His DISCIPLES, learners of what the Lord Jesus was teaching.
 - Followers today of Jesus need also to be faithful in learning and obedience to Jesus' ways.
3. After being disciples of the Lord they became SERVANTS.
 - A disciple is good but to become a servant is even better, for a servant has learned, been trained and is active in doing things the Lord wants done.
4. As one's relationship with Jesus grows, being a follower, a disciple, a servant, gradually changes. Jesus said to His disciples, "*...Henceforth I call you not servants, for the servant knoweth not what his/her Lord doeth, but I have called you FRIENDS, for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you...*"
 - A mere follower does not sit at a table with his/her leader; the disciples does not claim to be a partner with his/her master; the servant waits on the table of his/her master, does not sit with his/her master, but chosen friends are invited to be table-companions of the master, thus were the 12 disciples chosen by the Lord Jesus.
5. Table companions were with the Lord Jesus at the Lord's Supper.
 - All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, through His grace, are invited to be table-companions at the observance of the Lord's Supper

II. BEING TABLE-COMPANIONS WITH JESUS HAD IMPLICATIONS

1. Eating and drinking together was a pledge of faithfulness to one another.
 - Partaking of the Lord's Supper is a reminder of the faithfulness that one owes the Lord Jesus.
2. Eating and drinking together was a pledge of fidelity to one another as well as well as to the Lord Jesus.
 - A betrayer was among those sitting with Jesus, yet they still cared for one another.

- There is no place for bickering and jealousies among the Lord's disciples.
3. Eating and drinking together was a token/sign of mutual confidence.
 - The disciples trusted the Lord Jesus and trusted each other also.
 - There must be brotherly/sisterly confidence among those today who sit with the Lord Jesus at His table.
 4. Eating and drinking together around the table was a warm, loving BROTHERHOOD.
 - They had all things in common, no high and low ranks among them.
 - John sat next to the Lord Jesus, but Peter sat a distance away.
 - Around the Lord's table there is no priority, no superiority, everyone is equal.
 5. Eating and drinking together indicated common enjoyment.
 - Jesus ate what the disciples ate and drank what the disciples drank, even out of the same cup.
 - Jesus shares yet today equally with those who believe in Him.
 6. Eating and drinking together showed affection for each other.
 - It is a place of honor to sit at a table with the Lord Jesus.
 - Note that all 12 of the disciples shared the same honor.
 - Today around a table there is equality, fellowship and enjoyment of being together.
 - Thus it should be so when at the Lord's Table.

III. SUMMARY OF SITTING AT THE TABLE WITH THE LORD JESUS

1. There were 12 apostles/disciples, they were all equal, no one superior to another.
 - Each believer will be doing something different for the Lord, but around His table, all are equal.
 - No believer is superior to another.
2. The needs of the 12 apostles were the same.
 - The needs of believers today are the same when sitting at the Lord's Table.
 - The same spiritual food, the same Jesus Christ, the same Gospel.
3. Jesus brought the 12 disciples to His Table as His Table-companions.
 - All believers in the Lord Jesus will one day sit with the Lord Jesus at His Table in Heaven as Table-Companions.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are those who cannot come to the Table of the Lord for they have not been invited for they have never loved the Lord Jesus nor believed in Him and therefore have no part in Him.
2. The Lord's Table/Supper is for those who are followers, disciples, servants, friends of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. So, are you qualified to sit at the Lord's Table?