

The Lord's Day Morning

October 1, 1944

**“Who is Not to Come to the Lord's Table”  
Scripture Lesson – 1 Corinthians 11:23-34**

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Introduction

1. Have been thinking about Lord's Supper last few times we have had Communion.
    - a. Why Lord instituted this sacrament
      1. For remembrance of His sacrifice – Do this in remembrance of Me.
      2. For fellowship – Some come today conscious of fact that millions of Christians are in spiritual fellowship with us in this service – white, yellow, brown, black. They are met in foxholes, on Navy vessels, in brush arbors, in buildings transformed into places of worship, in dwellings, in tents, in army chapels, in frozen north, in steaming jungles of the south; they are meeting today in lovely cathedrals which have been standing centuries, some still with marks of recent bombings on those beautiful edifices and in ordinary church buildings. But wherever they are meeting today for this purpose we unite with them in remembering the death, resurrection, and coming again of our Lord.
    - b. Who is to come
      1. Those who humbly put their trust in Him.
      2. Those who are truly sorry for their sins and would turn away from them.
      3. Those who would seek and find help to live holy and righteous lives.
  2. But we are told that there are some who are not to come.
    - a. Who are these
- I. Those who live willingly in transgression and offenses holding fellowship with hatred, malice and impurity
1. Live willingly in transgression and offenses
    - a. We all sin – not one of us who does not
    - b. Many times we stumble and fall
    - c. This means those who know they are doing wrong and are disobedient, but who simply do not care what God thinks.
    - d. Grosser sins – stealing, lying, etc.
  2. Hold fellowship with
    - a. Hatred
      1. People who hate others; who will not speak to people because of some real or imaginary wrong.
      2. Matthew 5:23, 24 – Christ's injunction
    - b. Malice
      1. Intention to injure or hurt others
      2. Not physical alone

- 3. Hurt with scorn or tongue
- 4. There are some Christians who it seems to me take great delight in seeing how deep they can hurt or cut with mean, harsh words.
- c. Impurity
  - 1. Mind or heart
- 3. Then you say – but Pastor, none can come.
  - a. But remember the invitation comes to all who are truly sorry for their sin and would turn from them.
  - b. We can come this morning if we are sorry for our sin and if we want to be forgiven for them and will turn away from them.

II. Those who cherish pride and self-righteousness in their hearts

- 1. Who say because of who I am I can do as I please; God would not condemn me.
  - a. I belong to such and such a family
  - b. My parents did this, that, and the other for church
  - c. I am a successful business or professional man
  - d. I belong to most cultured and refined group in society
- 2. I am so good.
  - a. I do this, that and the other
- 3. So they do not see the necessity for Christ to do anything for them.

III. Those who trust secretly in their own works

- 1. They believe they can work their way into heaven by their own good deeds.
- 2. They do not understand death of Christ.

Conclusion

- 1. So then it is only those who reject Christ as Savior that should not come to this service.
- 2. Christ died for our sins and offers Himself as our Savior.
  - a. We may have hatred, malice, and impurity, but do we desire forgiveness? Then accept forgiveness offered in Christ.
  - b. Do we have pride and self-righteousness in our heart?
    - 1. Would we see that we cannot be saved because of our family or position or good deeds?
    - 2. Then accept Christ as our Savior
- 3. Story of man in Teheran: (selection from foreign mission letter, September 23, 1944)
  - a. “Never have we seen such meetings in Teheran. The church was filled each night, the interest was intense, and a large number of our young people and a number of soldiers came forward to dedicate themselves to Christ. Another series of meetings was held in the Syriac language for Assyrians, and the preacher said he had never before seen his people listen to eagerly to the Gospel. Thousands of people of various races were helped by these services.

Two days before I left Teheran, a cultured gentleman was brought to me by one of the Iranian Christians, who introduced his friend as a grandson of a former king of Persia. This man had had a dream eight years ago which made a deep impression

on him and attracted him toward Christianity, and he was eager to talk with Christians. Our time was limited, so I told him we would go directly to the point, and asked him if he had yet given his heart to Christ. 'No,' he said. 'I love Christ, but I haven't given my heart to Him.' 'Would you like to do so?' I inquired. 'There is nothing I would rather do!' he replied. So I explained simply how one became a Christian, and my guest said he was ready to take this important step. We knelt, and I made a prayer for him, and then he prayed for himself. I felt him trembling with emotion as he asked Christ to save him, and his face was glowing when he arose from his knees. Two days later when I went to the railroad station our new brother was there on the steps waiting for me. He stayed by my side till the train pulled out, and the last friend I saw as I started for America was this Mr. Mozaffari waving me a fond farewell."

(W. M. Miller, Presbyterian missionary, Teheran, Iran)

4. Will you come and meet the Session here and now and give your heart to Christ, confessing your sin and trusting Him for forgiveness?
  - a. Give invitation to meet the Session now