

HOLY VIOLENCE #13

Welcome to the Jungle

(How to Survive and Thrive in Babylon)

Part 4

“Tested at the Table”

Introduction

Solomon said...

Proverbs 23:1-3

**When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you;
And put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite.
Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.**

Albert Barnes

This can also read, ‘Consider diligently who is before thee’, the character and temper of the ruler who invites thee.

The Psalmist David voiced a similar sentiment...

Psalm 141:4

Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with men who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies.

Psalm 141:4 NLT

Don't let me drift toward evil...Don't let me share in the delicacies of those who do wrong.

Spiritual Application Today

Our new political 'rulers' are setting some very deceptive ‘delicacies’ on the table before us. Let all the believers beware! Our hearts being tested at the table!

I Have a 3 Part Message

State a Principle-Connect it to Daniel-Apply the Principle to Our Present

1-State the principle: There is a spiritual principle connected with eating and drinking: Human hearts are tested and revealed at the table.

2-Connect to Daniel: The key to Daniel's greatness was when he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat or wine.

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat nor his wine.

Daniel's decision was not just about physical food-it was a spiritual decision that literally determined his destiny.

3-Apply the principle to our present:

Our hearts are being 'tested at the table' today.

- Will we identify with Jerusalem or Babylon?
- Will we swallow what the political powers are feeding?
- Will we be willing to risk our lives to save ourselves from defilement by the world system?

Let me begin with a great revelation...

I. The Biblical Principle: Human Hearts are Tested and Exposed At The Table

A. The First Test: Adam and Eve

1. The great proof text for the principle of how our hearts are tested at the table is Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

2. God made all the trees in the Garden and gave Adam full freedom to eat from all the trees *except* one.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

3. It is most amazing to me that God would make what they ate a matter of life and death; that God would allow the future of the human race to be ‘tested at the table’.

4. **Was the forbidden fruit an apple?** A pear? (I have wondered if the fruit was a fig because after they ate and discovered their nakedness, they made aprons of fig leaves). But what does it matter? It was not about the food-it was what the food represented. The test at the table was spiritual-where their hearts were revealed.

5. The fall of the human race took place because our first parents failed the test ‘at the table’. Next, consider the case of...

B. Jacob and Esau

1. Esau was the first of the twin sons born out of Rebekah’s womb and therefore, the owner of the birthright due a firstborn son.

2. His brother Jacob was a schemer who wanted the birthright for himself. He tempted Esau at the table.

Genesis 25:31-34

But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day. So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright.

3. Esau was tested at the table-and sold his birthright for a bowl of chili. The prophet Obadiah tells us how his decision brought judgment on his descendants...

Obadiah 6-7 NLT

Every nook and cranny of Edom (the descendants of Esau) will be searched and looted. Every treasure will be found and taken. All your allies will turn against you. They will help to chase you from your land. They will promise you peace while plotting to deceive and destroy you. Your trusted friends will set traps for you, and you won't even know about it.

4. Esau sold his birthright and brought a curse upon his descendants because he failed his test at the table. On the positive side is the wonderful story of the Passover.

C. The Passover

1. In the Passover, God separated those who would live from those who would die.

2. The blood of the lamb on their doors protected God's people from the Destroyer, as they partook of the Passover meal on their tables.

Exodus 12:3

Take every man a lamb...a lamb for every house.

(The blood of the lamb went on the door; the flesh of the lamb was to be eaten.)

3. The angel of death went through the land-but he could not hurt those who were seated at the table of the Lord!

4. The Passover became the cornerstone of how God established the Jewish calendar around 3 Feasts: Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles. Each feast is connected with the 'table'; God promised His blessing on those who kept His feasts.

5. Many years later, God would save the Jews by exposing their mortal enemy at a table!

D. How Queen Esther Saved the Jews

1. In the Book of Esther, the evil Haman conspired to literally exterminate the Jewish people.

2. But Esther laid a snare for Haman *inviting him to a banquet*. As he sat at the table with the king and Esther the queen, his evil heart was exposed.

Esther 7:6

And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

3. The king had Haman hung on his own gallows in the noose Haman had prepared for Mordecai the Jew!

4. The Bible speaks of the table as the place where we can be...

E. Betrayed by a Friend

1. In Psalm 41, David cried out to the Lord because a close friend betrayed him at the table.

Psalm 41:9

Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

2. Bible scholars believe David was referring to his friend Ahithophel; one of his counselors who betrayed him to his enemies; Jesus quotes this scripture at the last supper referring to His own betrayal at the hands of Judas Iscariot.

John 13:18

"I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'

3. The account in the Gospel of Matthew gives more details:

Matthew 26:20-22

When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. *Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."* And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"

a. I always thought that this was a beautiful picture of humility among the disciples; in asking 'Lord, is it I?', they were admitting that they were all capable of failing the Lord! This is what it means to be 'poor in spirit'. To live with a sense of total dependence upon the grace of God and not on the flesh.

Matthew 26:23

He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me."

4. Had they not all dipped into the dish? Have not we all come to the Lord's table? Finally, Jesus exposes the traitor...

John 13:26-27

Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. *Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him.* Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

5. I find it most amazing that Judas has been among the 12 on a daily basis for 3½ years and *none of them really knew who he was until he was tested here at the table!*

6. Notice that when Judas ate the bread 'Satan entered him'! The bread of heaven to the 11 was the bread of hell to Judas!

7. How casually some Christians come to the Table of the Lord! Many of those who claim to follow Christ do not realize that...

F. The Communion Table is a Place of Judgement!

1. Jesus established Holy Communion as one of the great sacraments of the Church. Again, we see the connection of eating and drinking with spiritual realities.

2. But the Apostle Paul taught us that it is at the table of the Lord where we are to examine our hearts and judge ourselves!

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.* For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1 Corinthians 11:30-32

For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. *For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.* But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, *that we may not be condemned with the world.*

Pause and Review

1-State the principle:** So we have proven that there is a spiritual principle connected with eating and drinking: Human hearts are tested and revealed at the table.**

2-Connect to Daniel: Now we can better understand how the key to Daniel's greatness was when he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat or wine!

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat nor his wine.

II. Applying the Principle to Daniel

A. The Historical Context

Types and Shadows

- **Israel = The people of God**
- **Babylon = The world system**
- **Babylonian captivity = A season where God's people live under antichrist political systems**
- **Daniel and Friends = A model for surviving and thriving in Babylon**

1. Daniel had been free in Jerusalem but was under a new political system in Babylon.

2. He was immediately placed into a programming system for his education into the ways of this worldly system.

3. He had no control over his political placement or who was in charge of the government; nor the fact that they gave him a new name; but he did have a decision on the matter of what to eat and drink. When he was 'tested at the table' he refused to 'defile himself' with the things of this world!

Matthew Henry

When God's people are in Babylon, they have need to take special care not to partake in her sins. Providence seemed to lay this meat before them; being captives they must eat what they could get and must not disoblige their masters; yet, if the command violates their conscience, they must refuse.

Review: The Principle is that hearts are tested at the table.

Daniel purposed not to be defiled.

What will do?

III. Applying The Principle to Our Present Time

A. Connecting the Dots

1. Hearts are tested at the table; hearts are revealed at the table.

a. The message is not legalism; it's not a matter of eating pork or drinking a glass of Cabernet.

2. The king's meat and wine represent the *diet* of an alien culture; what the world feeds on; what the world wants to feed us. Or force feed us.

Mario Murillo

“They are coming after your freedom. They will force feed your children the antichrist agenda. That is, unless we wake up to our purpose and destiny.”

3. The current political party in power and the mainstream media are force feeding a stream of lies, half-truths and socialist propaganda.

a. Larry Tomczak's article in Charisma magazine lists...

3 Pillars of Progressivism That Will Destroy America

- **Proclaim America is a racist nation of white supremacists that must be refashioned**
- **Propagandize climate change as a 'science' proving it will end our civilization soon**
- **Propagate income inequality stemming from 'evil' capitalism that exploits 'marginalized' people groups requiring a new era of 'equity'**

4. This is what the socialists and the mainstream media are serving up to us; will you swallow it? Every Christian and every Christian church will be tested at the table. There will be no place to hide.

Charlie Kirk

Politics are coming to your church whether you like it or not. Some churches are marching for Black Lives Matter and apologizing for their 'whiteness'. Churches that address what's really going on will soon find themselves on a list. Remember. They don't want to get rid of the church. They want to get rid of the churches they don't like.

(P.S. We have already counted the cost as to this church!)

5. There will also be a decision for Christian schools and colleges. There is a battle on right now for the soul of Brentwood Academy; this is a school founded on Christian principles that many parents see sliding to the left.

a. At the center of the controversy is...

Brentwood Academy history teacher Brad Perry, commenting on the storming of the Capitol on January 6 said, “It was mostly white Christian men of ignorance and lies, come from all over the country to descend on the nation’s Capitol with their maniacal racism.”

b. That’s a pretty big judgment out of the mouth of a man who wasn’t even there.

c. And how’s this for hate speech?

Brad Perry

“Racism is at the heart of this national tragedy, this insurrection attempt, and President Trump, through the face of it all, has strategically allowed the flames of racial hatred to grow.

c. With teachers like this, it’s no wonder BA Christian parents are worried about the future of their school.

6. We’re in the mess we are in because there are still many panty-waist pastors and lazy churchgoers who seem to be ok with what’s going on. Some even voted for pro-abortion party. But a wake-up call is coming.

Lance Wallnau

Some people like the sandwich they have made. Now they will have to eat it.

7. What will you do when the government takes a stand with your little 10 year old boy when he chooses to declare himself a girl? What will you do when you find out there are boys taking showers with your teenage girls’ basketball team? This is not your father’s Democrat Party.

Mario Murillo

“President Kennedy put a man on the moon. President Biden will put a man in the girl’s locker room.”

8. The king's men are bringing his meat and his wine to our table to test us. Their agenda is to get you to swallow their agenda, as stated early on by former President...

Barack Obama

As for the international order that we have worked for generations to build: Ordinary men and women are too small minded to govern their own affairs. That order and progress can only come when individuals surrender their rights to an all-powerful sovereign.

B. So What Can We Do?

1. Right now remember this: there is only so far they can go!

Pastor Jack Hibbs

The left can never truly command people whose souls are free, no matter how strong they appear to be.

a. Fox News Tucker Carlson said it this way:

Tucker Carlson

There's a clear line between democracy and tyranny, between self-government and dictatorship. And here's what that line is. That line is your conscience. They cannot cross that. No democratic government can ever tell you what to think. Your mind belongs to you. It is yours and yours alone. Once politicians attempt to control what you believe, they are no longer politicians. They are by definition dictators. And if they succeed in controlling what you believe you are no longer a citizen, you are not a free man, you are a slave.

2. There is ALWAYS a choice! God has given us a freedom none can take away.

Charles Spurgeon

Though they might change Daniel's name, they could not change his nature, nor would he give up anything that he believed to be right. Captive as he was, he had a right royal soul; and *he was as free in Babylon as he had been at Jerusalem*, and he determined to keep himself so, for he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank."

3. Let me leave you with this great thought to remember: Man lost his salvation at the 'table' in the Garden of Eden; but all will be restored to God's people at the Table!

Revelation 19:7-10

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: '*Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!*'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

This is reserved for those who pass the test at the table!