

The Significance of the Days of Unleavened Bread

The seven days following the Eve of Passover

*A short article that we thought might help
you to understand why we won't be baking
leavened bread or attending markets
between 1st and 7th of April*

From the Community at Stentwood Farm



*home of
Common Loaf Bakery
and The Stentwood Farm Tea Room*

“Get out of here! I never want to see you again!” She screamed at him as the door slammed in his face. Another broken heart, another shattered relationship. What is the force that causes separation between individuals? Is it normal that relationships would end this way? Is there any way for people to overcome the forces that divide them, and actually grow closer to one another instead?

At Stentwood Farm we are keenly interested in this topic, being the dedicated bakers that we are, constantly handling bread and dealing with leaven. We understand leaven in the natural sense but there is another side to leaven, a spiritual side...

We are people who live together and share everything we have with one another, just like the early disciples of the first century (Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37).



Acts 2:44-45: Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

In our life of togetherness, these divisive forces are something that try to come between us all the time. If we lived our own separate lives it would be easy enough

to tolerate one another and get along just fine, but love is something completely different from toleration. Love brings people together and causes them to share all they have with one another. *Yahshua, the Son of God, calls this divisive force “leaven”

Matthew 16:6: Then Yahshua said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”

Have you ever seen leaven? Probably not. It’s microscopic. You can’t see it, but if you leave a lump of dough on the counter long enough you’ll know that leaven is in the air. Without even introducing yeast to the dough, it will start growing and the dough becomes puffed up. That’s what leaven does. The leaven emits gases that push the once tightly lumped flour particles away from each other. It’s a modifying influence that creates separation and division.



The Feast of Unleavened Bread was very significant among the first century believers.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8: Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

* **Yahshua** is the Hebrew name for Jesus Christ of the Bible. We like to call Him by that name because it was the name His Hebrew parents called Him.

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

In the first century, the Days of Unleavened Bread was a set-apart time for them to inspect their relationships and do away with anything that was causing separation — not just false teachings, but lies, accusations, and every other divisive factor that threatened their unity. And just like leaven, these lies and accusations weren't usually something a person could see. More often the leaven would come in the form of thoughts — subtle judgments and accusations against one another.



That's what we are learning to be on guard against in our fellowship at our community at Stentwood Farm, that we wouldn't let the leaven come in and divide us. I'm sure you've seen it before. Relationships that started well, and even got better for a time, but before long someone is standing outside with a door in their face just like the man

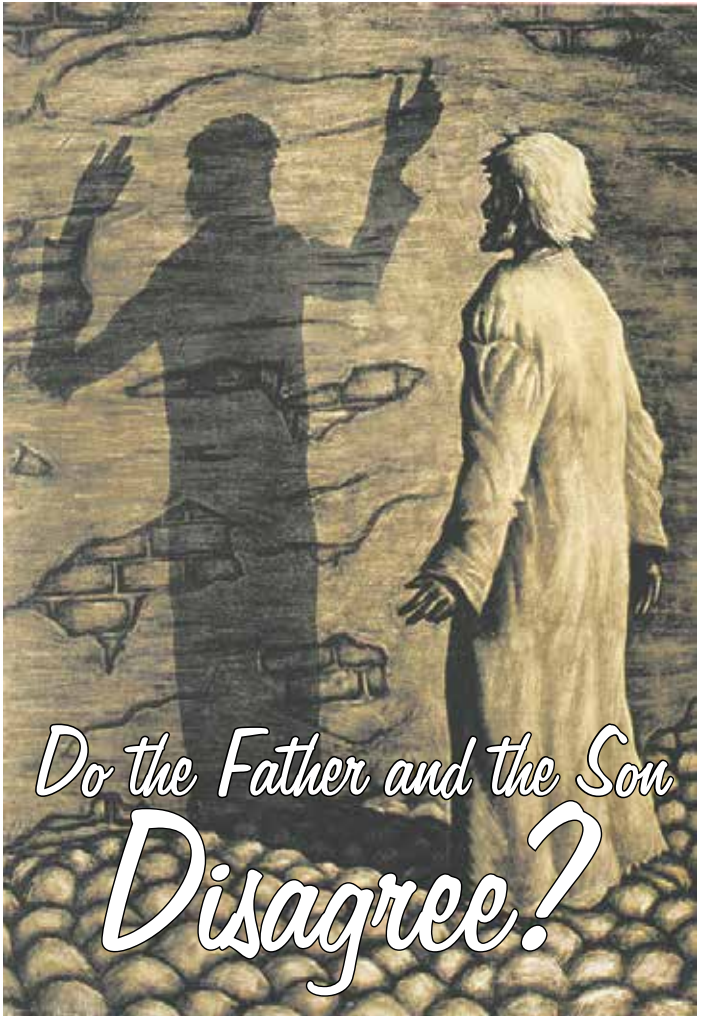
at the beginning of this article. Something came in and destroyed the relationship. What was it? Leaven came in and wasn't dealt with. Before long the problems had grown out of proportion and it was all over.



So what can be done about this divisive force called leaven? That's what Yahshua's teachings are for, and that is the purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This feast focuses specifically on the different ways that the evil one tries to undermine and destroy the unity of the believers, and our fellowship with our Father. Only together can we overcome this great battle in the spiritual realm, culminating with Revelation 20:1-2,

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”

A little-known truth is that Yahshua's disciples are that chain of unity that will bind Satan. Their tight, tried and tested, unbreakable relationships will put an end to the evil on this planet. It's what the Bible is all about. Without our being brought to complete unity, this end will never come.



*Do the Father and the Son
Disagree?*

John 17:20-23: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Attaining to the “oneness” Yahshua prayed for in the above verses is what we are living for. It is the fruit of His love poured out in our hearts and then on one another. Some people even say they can taste it in the bread.

So, we will be spending seven days with a special focus to this end. Even though we will not be at the market during this time you can still come and see us at our Tea Room. We won't serve any leavened bread but we still have some delicious treats for you. We certainly aren't going to take time off being social. And... If you like, you can ask us more about this special time.



