

## 1 Sam 20:18

**18 Then Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed because your seat will be empty."**

Many of us can remember running around in the yard and hearing our parents yell, "Come on in...it's time to eat." For some of us there may have been a dinner bell or some other method of communication to get our attention for the meal at hand.

Nevertheless, we knew that if we wanted to eat, we had better come in and get cleaned up while taking our place at the dinner table.

What happens when a family sits down to eat and realizes that someone is missing and has not been seated around the table for the meal?

Before the blessing is spoken over the food, everyone will hopefully be accounted for and present at the table. Otherwise, they will be missed.

In this day and age, it is rare to find families that eat together regularly. A meal may be prepared, but often the father gets home late from work and his food is warmed at the time of his arrival, while the children will be off with friends eating fast food or grabbing a bite to eat at another location.

We know that as Christians we are called to eat a meal that requires us to come with pure hearts in remembrance of Jesus Christ.

I often wonder what keeps people from taking part in such an important feast each week. While it is not my place to judge the intentions of another, I can say with sincerity that whoever doesn't show up to enjoy the supper of the Lord are missed dearly when their seat is empty.

In I Samuel 20:18, Jonathan expresses how difficult it was going to be to see David's seat empty in the home of his father, Saul, when they were eating the feast of the new moon. Jonathan was used to seeing David at the table for every meal. When Saul began to hate David and pursue his life, David fled in a desire to preserve his life. Because of the love that Jonathan had for David, he wanted him to continue to join them for their meals but was disturbed that his seat would be empty.

We are eating the feast of the Son of God. As New Testament Christians, this meal is of utmost importance. When we sit in our chair, it is obvious when the chair across from us is empty. Who should be there? Look now and see if you can notice who might be missing from the table today? Do you love them like Jonathan loved David? What might cause these individuals to miss the Lord's Supper?

The only person I know that is trying to harm us and steal the abundant life away from us is the devil and ironically, the only way he can have any success is if we are failing to give ourselves to the service of the Lord. While he is always in pursuit of our souls, we can protect ourselves by remaining in the house of the Lord.

One of the most intimate of times that we share with the Lord is when we sit together and eat at His table. What can Satan do, when we are willing to eat at the table of the Lord rather than the table of demons? How much influence can the devil have in our lives when we are remembering the one who destroyed the power of sin and death when He went to the cross for our soul's salvation?

I hope through this lesson that you will appreciate three important truths about the Lord's Supper:

1. We love each other and want to eat this meal together.
2. We are missed when we do not take our place at the table
3. We can remember what Jesus did for us when He died for our sin and overcame Satan.

Don't be absent when the Lord's people come together as a family to partake of the emblems that represent the body and blood of Christ. Jesus went through too much to prepare this meal for us to be late or off doing something else when it is time to surround the table each week. This is not a ritual or religious routine, but rather is a remembrance of the one who died for our sins. If he invites us here, we need to accept the invitation and show our appreciation and gratitude for his sacrifice and hospitality.

You can almost hear the Lord saying, "Come on in...it's time to eat". Let us now surround the table with pure hearts and partake of the Lord's Supper.