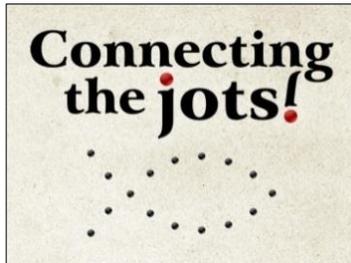


# Connecting the Jots

## *The Yeast of Hypocrisy*

Part 2 – October 13, 2013



Last week we began our 2nd series. Jesus said every jot in the law and prophets is fulfilled in Him. (Mat 5:17-18) And, I believe we can see this in *every* created thing, if we connect the jots! We connected the water into wine, to the True Vine, to the winepress, to white and red blood cells, to the Hallel hymn Jesus sang just before He poured out His blood of the New Covenant.



I said we'd start a 3rd series today. But, some of your comments, after service, have led to Part Two, *and* a new website: hpWordPlay.com<sup>1</sup>, where we can pool our resources.

I'm no expert on things like vines, wines, and blood; but, some of you *are!* Or, your interest is peaked and you'll seek. Whatever the case, hpWordPlay is where we can share whatever we find.



I asked: what's the only thing, besides *Jesus*, that can turn water into wine? A grapevine! But, what's the process? Fermentation! We connected the vine to the wine, but we left out the *yeast*.

**Wine is good to the one enjoying it, but not so much for the *grape*, infected with the fungus!**



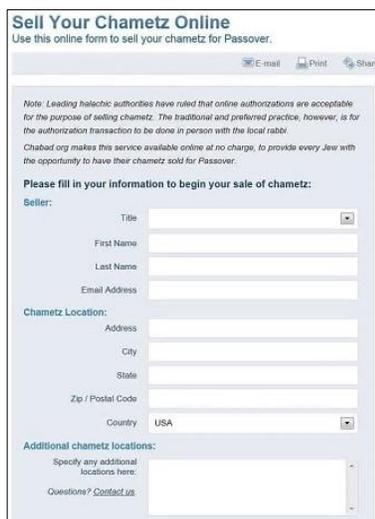
Yeast is a fungus lying dry and dormant, till it finds food and water; then it fires up, devours sugar like mad, dividing, spreading, swelling and bloating its unfortunate host with a discharge of ethanol and carbon dioxide. Ever notice a dusty coat on grapes? Yeast. It's on *you* too. Waiting to infiltrate. Infect. Every grape's a winemaking kit. Crush. Seal. Wait. Wine. **Once exposed to yeast, and deprived of oxygen, it's inevitable.** Crush. Seal. Wait. Wine.

**As soon as the skin is *pierced*, the process begins.** We need to connect the jots to the Last Supper, which is connected to Passover, which is connected to the Exodus from Egypt.

Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. ... For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel ... – Exodus 12:17a, 19a NIV

<sup>1</sup> www.hpWordPlay.com redirects to a Facebook Group, so Facebook membership is required.

God told Moses to prepare his people to leave in the morning. No time for dough to rise. **Those who added yeast didn't trust God.** I'm not sure you know how big a deal this was. Not only was it banned from their homes, it was banned from their *entire nation!*



... nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. – Exodus 13:7 NIV

Let no yeast be found in your possession in all your land ... – Deut 16:4a NIV

The loophole is, you could seal it in a room so it couldn't "be seen"; and, temporarily sell it, or turn it over, to gentiles, so it's not in "your possession", until Passover passes over.

And, they did, and do. Here's an online form.<sup>2</sup> Properly removing the yeast for Passover is a monumental task, taking days, if not weeks. Not a crumb can be missed. Car. Garage. Desk. Closet. Purse. Briefcase. Furniture. Bookcase. Toothpicks and Q-Tips work well for appliances.

Chametz is 'leavening'



Ritual Burning of the Chametz

What can't be made kosher, or sealed and sold, is burned in a ceremony the morning of Passover. Now, let's connect the jots back to Jesus' disciples ...

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" – Matthew 26:17 NIV

Nothing like waiting till the last minute, boys! Can you picture His youthful disciples descending on that place? Tracking down every trace, more like a *wrecking crew* than a *cleaning crew*. But, connect the jots, and you'll see they missed some, right at the table, where they ate. And when Jesus, the Living Water, touched the yeast, it activated, rapidly spread, and *killed Him!*

Jesus had warned 'em about what the yeast *really* is.

"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." – Matthew 16:6 NIV

This is like saying beware of the politics of the conservatives and liberals. What do they have in *common*? Hmm, it's a *riddle!* **Pharisees were strict, burdening others with religious demands they couldn't even follow;** but, **Sadducees were permissive, to the point of rejecting much of what they claimed to represent.** They're both *hypocrites!* (Luke 12:1) The **Pharisees try to stand out and be seen; Sadducees try to blend in and disappear.** But, **both pretend to be what they're not,** and lead others to do the same.

<sup>2</sup> The online form can be found here: [https://chabad.org.clohosting.org/holidays/passover/sell\\_chometz.htm](https://chabad.org.clohosting.org/holidays/passover/sell_chometz.htm)

... he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. – Matthew 16:12b NIV

In a nutshell, **the teaching of the Pharisees was *truth* without *grace*; the teaching of the Sadducees was *grace* without *truth*.** But, you can't have one without the other. Not possible.

**Truth spoken without grace sounds fake. A lack of grace cancels the merits of truth. Grace spoken without truth sounds indulgent. A lack of truth corrupts the essence of grace.** Which way do you lean? You can practice balancing 'em this week, when you talk about this.

Here's what prompted Jesus to say what He said.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. - Matthew 16:1 NIV

This is a *sting*. They've *seen* Him do miracles. They're planting doubt by asking for a spectacular sign from the heights of Heaven, working together, for once, against their common nemesis: Jesus.



Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." - John 11:47-48 NIV

To ferment, yeast has to get under the skin of the grape.

And, ***nothing* got under Jesus' skin quite like hypocrisy!** I removed some words from one of Jesus' sermons, so others will stand out.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! ... You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. ... Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! ... Woe to you, blind guides! ... You blind fools! ... You blind men! ... Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! ... You blind guides! ... Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! ... Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs ... on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! ... You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?" – Matthew 23 NIV *condensed*



Know what kills yeast? The alcohol they produce. Now, *that's irony*. **A hypocrite's tolerance for their own toxic waste is quite limited. So, condemner or compromiser, spiritual death comes by *suicide*! Hypocrites must drink the death they create.** Then, the yeast sink to the dregs of the kegs, the very fate Christ came to save us from.

In the hand of the Lord is a cup full of foaming wine ... he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth drink it down to its very dregs. – Psalm 75:8 NIV



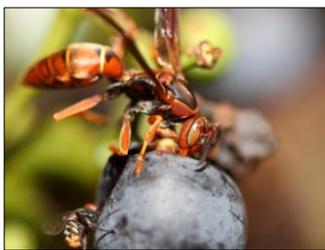
The surprise of all time is that God came to pour His wrath on *Himself*, in our place, to offer redemption to us hypocrites! Religious hypocrisy pierced Him and pinned Him to the cross. Know what most often pierces a grape, causing it to ferment on the vine? Bees and wasps. Hey, who invited a fly to the party?! Actually, the Lord did. Look what Isaiah prophesied, 760 years before the Pharisees and Sadducees came with their hypocritical test.

... “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” [Same way they tested Jesus] But Ahaz [king of Judah] said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ... In that day the Lord will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria.” – Isaiah 7:10b-14, 18 NIV

So, where was the yeast of hypocrisy hiding at the Last Supper? Right where hypocrisy always tries to hide: inside someone’s heart.

... Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.” His disciples stared at one another, at a loss ... dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. “What you are about to do, do quickly,” Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. ... As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. – John 13:21-28, 30a NIV

And, the yeast was activated and the process quickly led to the kiss of betrayal and rapidly spread to the whip, the thorns, the nails, and the cross. Crush. Seal. Wait. Wine. In the last part of the Hallel, Psalm 118, this is what Jesus sang, just after Judas left to fetch the hypocrites to arrest Him.



“They swarmed around me like bees, but they died out as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off. ... The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: ‘The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!’ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.” – Psalm 118:12-17 NIV

And, that’s how the True Vine was turned into the new wine! Here’s the thing: **everyone’s a hypocrite. We’re all broken.** Our behavior won’t consistently match our beliefs. **There’s only one hope for a hypocrite, one antidote for hypocrisy: humility.**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. – 1 Peter 5:6-8a NIV

**Don’t try to act more holy than you are; and don’t try to act more worldly than you are.** Be obedient and trust in Christ. **Yeast may ferment the wine, but it causes the bread to rise!**