

THE LAST MEAL THAT SETS FREE!

By David Lee Burris

From the Guardian Newspaper: "Texas has banned last meal requests after the execution of Lawrence Russell Brewer, who dragged a black man to his death behind a pick-up truck. Brewer made an elaborate meal request but ate none of it.

Lawrence Russell Brewer was executed on Wednesday for the hate killing of James Byrd Jr more than a decade ago. He asked for two chicken fried steaks, a triple-meat bacon cheeseburger, fried okra, a pound of barbecue, three fajitas, a meat lover's pizza, a pint of ice cream and a slab of peanut butter fudge with crushed peanuts. Prison officials said Brewer did not eat any of it.

'It is extremely inappropriate to give a person sentenced to death such a privilege,' Senator John Whitmire, chairman of the Senate criminal justice committee, wrote afterwards to Brad Livingston, the executive director of the Texas criminal justice department. Livingston agreed and said: "Effective immediately, no such accommodations will be made. They will receive the same meal served to other offenders on the unit." That had been Whitmire's suggestion.

Until 2003 the Texas prison system listed final meals of each prisoner as part of its death row website. That stopped at 313 final meals after officials said they received complaints from people who found it offensive. A former inmate cook, who made the last meals for prisoners at the Huntsville unit, where Texas executions are carried out, wrote a cookbook several years ago after he was released. Among his recipes were Gallows Gravy, Rice Rigor Mortis and Old Sparky's Genuine Convict Chili, a nod to the electric chair that once served as the execution method. The book was called Meals To Die For."

From the Houston Chronicle: “Jim Willett, former Walls Unit warden and now director of the Texas Prison Museum, said allowing condemned inmates to order special last meals dates to at least 1924, when the state assumed responsibility for executions from counties. The final meal has roots in pre-modern Europe, where executioners thought a fancy spread might quell the soon-to-be departed's ghost. In Louisiana, prisons spokeswoman Pam Laborde said, the warden at Angola traditionally joins the soon-to-be executed inmate in his last meal. On one occasion, the warden paid for an inmate's lobster dinner out of his own pocket.”

Last Meals Do Not Satisfy in Physical Health or Spiritual Hunger

The fact that Snopes accurately debunked one false rumor that Texas Cannibal Pedophile Jim Buzzard’s last meal choice was an eight-year old child does not diagnostically undo in evaluation the sickness of the soul revealed by the record of these requests. While hopelessly awaiting the proverbial phone call of reprieve from the State Governor: Victor Feguer ordered a single olive with the pit still in it & to be buried with that pit; Lawrence Brewer ordered a 29,000 caloric feast which he refused to eat – saying he was no longer hungry; James Edward Smith famously ordered for his last meal a ‘pile of dirt’; Troy Davis refused his special last meal stating that ‘This meal will not be my last’; Rickey Ray Rector ordered fried chicken and pecan pie but left the pecan pie telling the correctional officers that accompanied him to his execution that he was ‘saving it for later’; Lastly, Odell Barnes final meal request was for ‘Justice, Equality, and World Peace.’

Jesus Christ Was Crucifixion Executed As A Common Criminal

From Charles Spurgeon's Sermon in Exposition of Isaiah 53:

- *He was numbered with transgressors in public reputation.*
- *He was numbered with transgressors in the courts of law.*
- *The whole mob numbered Him with transgressors when He was on trial.*
- *He bears the transgressor's scourging.*
- *He also bears the felon's cross.*
- *He trades places so He could better become the transgressor's advocate.*
- *He trades places that He might plead with the transgressor.*
- *He trades places so that sinners may feel drawn to Him.*
- *He on the transgressor's list that we might be written in the roll of saints.*
- *He trades places to challenge Justice.*

Death Row Similarities: Last Supper & Criminal Execution of Christ

Jesus Christ pled to the ultimate authority for a last-minute reprieve (Mark 14: 36) & afterwards considered Himself forsaken (Mark 15: 34).

Jesus Christ – the Son of Man - had His physical life sacrificed for the safety of the entire human race (John 3: 16, 17).

Death Row Differences: Last Supper & Criminal Execution of Christ

Liberty For The Captive. The Last Passover Supper of Christ on Earth – Memorialized the Mosaic freeing of slaves and coerced release of God’s chosen from captivity.

The middle term of comparison between the Passover and the Lord’s Supper is the heavenly banquet. It was, (first), however, the past which set the pattern for the future. The events of the Exodus constituted the type which gave form to the future expectation of an act of redemption by the mighty hand of God. The second thing is that Jesus spoke in terms of fulfillment and newness, and thus indicated the end of the old Passover and its replacement by its fulfillment. It (Lord’s Supper) would be a new Christian festival that was regarded as paschal only insofar as the Passover provided the typology for understanding the death of Jesus as an act of redemption. – Last Supper & Lord’s Supper

Pardoned From Death. Today’s Lord’s Supper - in anti-type to the Last Supper – with the memorial elements of flesh and blood - proclaim the promise of tomorrow and of life eternal. (Romans 5: 7 – 10)

The Lord’s Supper is to be seen as the meal ‘between the ages.’ It is an anticipation of the heavenly meal which Jesus looked forward to sharing with the Twelve. Thus, the Lord himself is the host who presides at the table. The disciples that take part are the company of the redeemed. They feed on heavenly food and anticipate the joys of heaven itself. There is no conflict between the element (joy) and the solemnity and reverence which Paul commends as appropriate at the meal.” – Last Supper & Lord’s Supper

**Celebrating Life. Life as a Spiritual Journey with Garden Destination
Partaking of the Tree of Life & Christian Family Participation in the Final
Communion Anti-type - The Heavenly Wedding Feast! (Rev. 19: 7; 22: 2)**

In conclusion, the process for the sinful criminal to receive pardon and the formula to accomplish Odell Barne's goal of 'Justice, Equality, and World Peace' - are the same – surrender of human will to God's Will!

In other words, court expungement of our sinful guilt comes from faith in action. Obedient faith forgives everything and reconciles everyone.

Finally, dear brethren, let us delight in the thought of eating someday of the heavenly food and celebrating together in heavenly communion!