

RADIATE, PART 5

TURNING THE TABLES

Luke 7:31-35

At the center of the Christian life is a meal—with Jesus himself as the main course.

Luke 7:31-35

Why Jesus came—“The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

How Jesus came—“The Son of Man came eating and drinking.” (Luke 7:34)

A major feature of Luke’s Gospel is that Jesus is usually going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal.

Meals in Luke

“In approximately one-fifth of the sentences in Luke . . . meals play a conspicuous role.” (Markus Barth)

The rap on Jesus was that he was “a drunkard and a glutton.” (Luke 7:34)

“In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus got himself killed because of the way he ate.” (Tim Chester)

Meals were central to the mission of Jesus because they embodied and enacted the very grace of God he came to give.

“[They] rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.” (Luke 7:30)

“They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling out to each other: ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’” (Luke 7:32)

The Parable of the Brats

“Let’s play wedding.”

“Let’s play funeral.”

“We want to play miserable critic.”

“. . . make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.” (Titus 2:10b)

The problem is that we want to call the tune that God plays.

“I like my way of doing it wrong better than your way of not doing it all.” (D. L. Moody)

Jesus: “But wisdom is proved right by all her children.” (Luke 7:35)

The Meaning of Meals

Meals remind us that the God who feeds us is hospitable, generous, wise, and good.

Meals demonstrate that we are not self-sufficient creatures but finite beings dependent upon the Creator.

Meals reveal to us the status of our own hearts—who are we willing or unwilling to have at our tables?

Meals enable us to be conduits of God’s common grace to others—to listen to, affirm, encourage, inspire, value, and support other people.

Meals position us to be on mission—to ask questions, share insights, offer challenges, elevate vision, and offer the gospel.

Meals remind us of the ultimate meal to come—the Marriage Supper of the Lamb at the restoration of all things.