

TURNING THE TABLES, PART 1

THE SON OF MAN CAME EATING & DRINKING

Luke 7:28-35 and Selected Verses

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

Series Introduction

- Why Jesus came—“For 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.
- “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,” dining with all the wrong people. (cf. Luke 7:34)
- “In Luke’s Gospel Jesus got himself killed because of the way he ate.” (Robert J. Karris)

The Parable of the Brats

- “Hey, let’s play wedding!”
- “O.k., let’s play funeral!”
- “We want to play miserable critic!”
- “Make the teaching about God our Savior attractive” (Titus 2:10).
- The problem is that we want to call the tune that God plays.

The Meaning of Meals

- Meals remind us that the God who feeds us is hospitable, generous, wise, and good.
- Meals remind us 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 grace to others—to listen, affirm, encourage, inspire, value, and support others.
- Meals remind us of the ultimate meal to come—the Marriage Supper of the Lamb at the restoration of all things.

The Potential of Meals

- “Jesus didn’t run projects, establish ministries, create programs, or put on events. He ate meals. If you routinely share meals and you have a passion for Jesus, then you’ll be doing mission. It’s not that meals save people. People are saved through the gospel message. But meals will create natural opportunities to share that message in a context that resonates powerfully with what you’re saying.” (Tim Chester)

Luke	Meal	Participants	Significance	Central Teaching
5:27-39	The Banquet at Levi’s House	Jesus, Disciples, Tax Collectors, and Sinners	Mission, Scandal, Grace, Evangelism	“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (5:32)
7:36-50	The Dinner at Simon the Pharisee’s House	Jesus, Pharisees, Guests, and the Sinful Woman	Forgiveness, Love, Restoration, Community	“Your sins are forgiven. . . . Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.” (7:48, 50)
9:10-17	The Feeding of the 5,000 at Bethsaida	Jesus, Disciples, and the Crowds (5000 Males)	Service, Provision, Eternity, Hope	“Send the crowd away. . . . Jesus replied, ‘You give them something to eat.’” (9:13)
10:38-42	Hospitality in Martha’s Home	Jesus, Disciples, Mary, and Martha	Discipleship, Distractions, Priorities, Receiving	“Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her.” (10:41)
11:37-54	The Meal at a Pharisee’s House	Jesus, Pharisees, and Teachers of the Law	Ceremony, Tradition, Hypocrisy, Authentic Spirituality	“You clean the outside of the cup, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.” (11:39)
14:1-24	The Sabbath Meal at a Pharisee’s House	Jesus, Pharisees, Lawyers, Guests, and the Man with Dropsy	Mission, Invitation, Excuses, Reversal	“When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.” (14:13)
19:1-10	Hospitality from Zacchaeus, the Chief Tax Collector	Jesus, Disciples, Zacchaeus, and the Crowds	Mission, Scandal, Grace, Transformation	“Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.” (19:9)
22:7-38	The Last Supper in the Upper Room	Jesus and His Twelve Disciples (including Judas)	Thanksgiving, Salvation, New Covenant, Eternity	“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” (22:20)
24:13-35	Breaking Bread at a Home in Emmaus	Jesus, Cleopas, and the Other Disciple from Emmaus	Discouragement, Resurrection, Scripture, Revitalization	“He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” (24:30)
24:36-49	Post-Resurrection Dinner with the Disciples	Jesus and His Eleven Disciples, and Others	Doubt, Assurance, Mission, Power	“Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in [my] name to all nations. . . . You are witnesses of these things.” (24:47-48)