

TURNING THE TABLES, PART 4

BREAKING BREAD AT BETHSAIDA

Luke 9:10-17

Kingdom hospitality is letting Jesus be gracious through you.

Jesus demonstrates divine AUTHORITY.

- Jesus is a new and greater Moses. (Exodus 16:4)
- Jesus is a new and greater Elisha. (2 Kings 4:42-44)
- Jesus is the “with-us-God” who feeds his people. (Genesis 1:29)
- Jesus is the host of the coming messianic banquet. (Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 19:9)

But for now, we live in the kingdom of Herod—a fallen world of hunger, famine, pestilence, disease, injustice, and despair. The meal in the desert is only a glimpse of the good things that are coming. Yet it is a glimpse filled with great anticipation and hope.

Jesus delivers divine HOSPITALITY.

- Jesus welcomed the people. (11b)
- Jesus spoke to the people about the kingdom of God. (11c)
- Jesus healed the people who needed healing. (11d)
- Jesus arranged for the people to experience his blessings in smaller groups. (14b-15)
- Jesus gave thanks to God for the provisions he had received. (16a)
- Jesus miraculously fed the people, and they were satisfied. (16b-17a)

“When God created the world, there was no hunger and starvation. There was no blindness and leprosy. There was no poverty and disease and death. Those things are unnatural. God didn’t make the world like this. That means miracles of Jesus show that Jesus is no happier with this world as it is now than we are. The miracles of Jesus are not primarily suspensions of the natural order; they are restorations of the natural order.” (Tim Keller)

Jesus delegates divine RESPONSIBILITY.

- The needs around them were great, so we can hardly blame the disciples for saying, “Send the crowd away.” (12)
- But despite their limited abilities and resources, Jesus says to his followers: “You give them something to eat.” (13a)
- Jesus can do miraculous things with the ordinary things his people are willing to give him. (13b)
- It was in obedience to the command of Jesus that the miracle of multiplication took place. (16b)
- The event shows Jesus’ power, compassion, abundance, and humility—his disciples share in the miracle! (17b)

“The Christian community is the beginning and sign of God’s coming world—and no more so than when we eat together. Our meals are a foretaste of the future messianic banquet. Our meals reveal the identity of Jesus. Our meals are a proclamation and demonstration of God’s good news.” (Tim Chester)