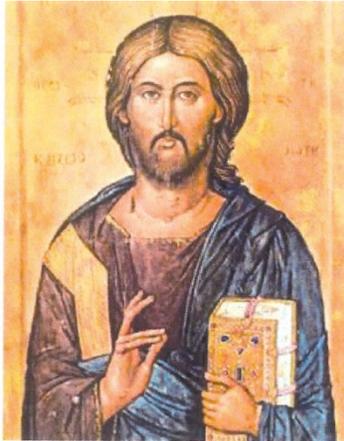


Dining in the Kingdom:



A look at meals and Communion in Luke's Gospel.

WEEK ONE: Luke 5:27-39 (Dinner at Levi's House)

Background:

The events leading up to verse 27 are as follows: the call to the first disciples to follow, healing a leper, healing of a paralyzed man whom Jesus tells, "Your sins are forgiven." This causes issues – only God forgives sins.

The gathering:

A 'great banquet' with "a large crowd of tax collectors" so this is not an intimate gathering.

In Matthew's gospel:

This event takes place in the town of Capernaum – the home of Simon Peter and Andrew. So Levi is not just a hated, collaborator, dishonest tax collector – he is actually THEIR hated tax collector!

The call to Matthew/Levi:

One sentence: follow me.

The meal:

This is the demonstration of what Jesus talks about all the time – welcoming sinners. He sits and eats with them. It is also an act of conversion (like the call to disciples) and an act of healing (like the leper and the paralytic.)

Teaching:

He teaches about a future time of sorrow when he will be gone, and also asks us to imagine how much we love the old, aged, flavorful, familiar wine – and how difficult it is for us to imagine being a container in which new wine can ferment and age.

Questions to think about:

1. How does this great banquet point toward a Communion service?
2. How did the disciples manage their new brother, who was their old enemy?
3. Try to imagine the details of the banquet. What were they eating? Who was serving? What was it like?
4. What kind of wineskin are you?

Luke 5:27-39

Jesus Calls Levi

²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax-collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' ²⁸ And he got up left everything, and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax-collectors and others sitting at the table* with them.

³⁰ The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax-collectors and sinners?'

³¹ Jesus answered, 'those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; ³² I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to the repentance.'

The Question about Fasting

³³ Then they said to him, ‘John’s disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink.’

³⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘You cannot make wedding-guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? ³⁵The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from the, and then they will fast in those days.’ ³⁶ He also told them a parable: ‘No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, “The old is good.”’

Schedule of Lessons:

- Week Two: (April 8) Luke 7:36-50 - Dinner at the house of Simon
- Week Three: (April 15) Luke 9:10-17 - 5,000 on a hillside.
- Week Four: (April 22) Luke 10:38-42 - Mary and Martha of Bethany.
- Week Five: (April 29) Luke 22:7-38 - The Last Supper.
- Week Six: (May 6) Luke 24:13-35 - On the road to Emmaus.

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