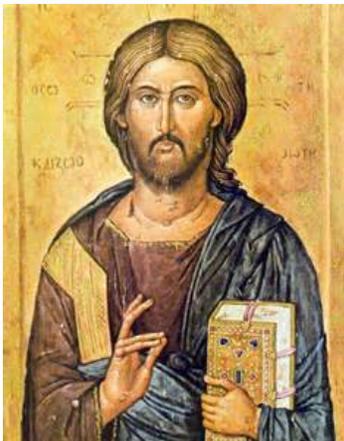


Dining in the Kingdom:



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

Week Three: Luke 9:10-17 (Dinner outside for 5,000.)

https://youtu.be/PPAJLIww_o

Luke 9:10-17

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹⁰ On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹ When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured.

¹² The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, 'Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.' ¹³ But he said to them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.' ¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, 'Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.' ¹⁵ They did so and made them all sit down. ¹⁶ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷ And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Background:

In the passage just before this, the 12 disciples were sent out by Jesus with power and authority to preach and heal—taking no provisions along the way, they relied on the hospitality of others. They report back to him about their journey.

The disciples have just received hospitality, now they will learn about giving it.

Luke's Gospel is where we heard about the journey of Mary and Joseph, and their experience of no room at the Inn.

The gathering:

In the last 2 meals, Jesus was the guest and he was invited by the host—Levi and then Simon. Now he is the host, no formal invitations were needed. He shares the hosting duties with the 12 disciples.

There is no mention of a house or home—this took place outside. This miraculous gathering is reported in all 4 Gospel narratives—one of the few miracles in all 4.

Unlike the other 2 meals we have looked at, quantity of food was a problem here! It ended up being a huge show of abundance.

12 is a key number here—12 disciples, 12 tribes of Israel, 12 baskets of leftovers after the meal.

The meal:

Every Communion service is patterned after this meal: he took, blessed, broke, and gave. These are considered the 4 movements of the Eucharist.

This meal points back to the manna in the wilderness in the days of Moses—always in the background.

The miraculous feeding actually shows the people who Jesus is.

Teaching:

Jesus taught them about the Kingdom of God and healed them. All the long day!

Dividing them into 100 groups of 50 people points forward to teaching in the early church—this is meant to be like a diocesan council gathered from many small congregations.

The Kingdom of God is for the whole human race.

Questions to think about:

1. How does this meal point toward a Communion service?
2. Do you think women and children were included in the number 5,000? Or were they additional?
3. When they all scattered out and went home—what were they thinking?
4. Have you ever been in a crowd of 5,000 people? What was the event, and what was it like? Have you ever been to a church service with 5,000 people present??