

## 08-10-2025 Message



1 Group

Start Theme Slide

“When sharing a meal is more than  
the meal itself”

2

If I were to ask you to finish the  
following statement:

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The Son of Man came

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3

- The Son of Man came ***to seek and to save that which was lost...***
- The Son of Man came to ***be rejected... killed, and after three days rise again***".
- The Son of Man came ***with the authority... to forgive sins***".
- The Son of Man came ***"...not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many...***
- The Son of Man came ***eating and drinking...***

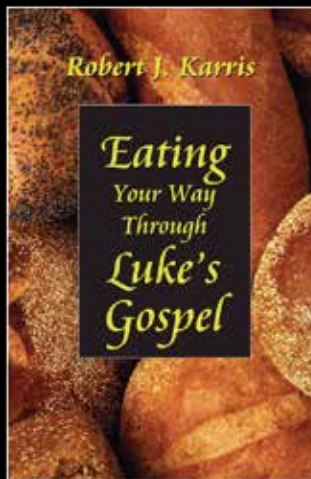
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<sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

Luke 7:34 (ESV)

5

Luke 7:34 (ESV)



“ In Luke's Gospel Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal.

”  
Robert Karris, *Eating Your Way Through Luke's Gospel*

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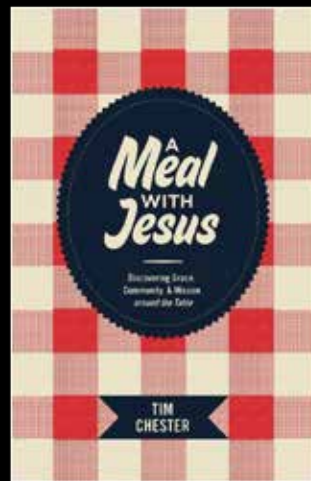
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8

We learn a lot about Jesus' mission and ministry through the meals that he shares with people.

9



10

“

Few acts are more expressive of companionship than the shared meal...Someone with whom we share food is likely to be our friend, or well on the way to becoming one.

”

Tim Chester, *A Meal With Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission Around the Table*

11

“

Shared meals possess the power to foster connection, improve well-being, and strengthen relationships. They provide a space for meaningful conversations, create lasting memories, and cultivate a sense of belonging.

”

Laura Flosi—*“The Power of Sharing a Meal”* Ted Talk

12

## STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE TO EAT TOGETHER REGULARLY:

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1. Had healthier eating habits
2. Were more socially connected
3. Performed better academically
4. Had lower incidence of substance abuse  
and depression

13



“  
In all cultures meals  
represent ‘boundary  
markers.’ They mark the  
boundaries between  
different levels of  
intimacy and acceptance.

”  
Mary Douglas, *Deciphering a  
Meal*

14

Jesus eats dinner with Levi and his tax-collecting friends.

15

<sup>27</sup>After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him,  
<sup>28</sup>and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.  
<sup>29</sup>Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others eating with them.

Luke 5:27-32 (NIV)

16

Luke 5:27-32 (NIV) 1 of 2



<sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

<sup>32</sup>I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:27-32 (NIV)

17

Luke 5:27-32 (NIV) Last of 2

Four Observations:

1. Jesus' saw Levi.

18

<sup>27</sup>After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, <sup>28</sup>and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:27-28 (NIV)

19

Luke 5:27-28 (NIV)

What does it mean to "see" someone,  
in the way that Jesus' saw Levi?

20

See = Eido in the Greek; two meanings:

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1. To have eyesight or functioning vision
2. To notice, to see with insight and understanding

21

Many of us miss “seeing” the person in front of us.

22



23

Failing to give focused attention is  
failing to see.

24

Four Observations:

2. Jesus invited Levi to follow him.

25



26



27

- Levi was NOT a practicing Jew.
- Levi was very wealthy.
- Levi was viewed as living an immoral lifestyle.

28

Four Observations:

3. Levi's response: He left everything and followed Jesus.

29

<sup>27</sup>After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, <sup>28</sup>and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:27-28 (NIV)

30

Luke 5:27-28 (NIV)

Unlike Simon and Andrew who could return to their fishing business, Levi's decision was irreversible.

31

Levi gave up the most, financially, to follow Jesus.

32



Four Observations:

4. What Levi did next tells us a great deal about his heart and generosity. He hosts a dinner.

33

<sup>29</sup>Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

Luke 5:29 (NIV)

34

Luke 5:29 (NIV)

Levi could have left his job and life quietly and hoped that his tax collecting friends might one day meet Jesus.

35

Levi did the one thing he knew to connect them with Jesus. He invited them to his house for a meal.

36

“  
When asked about the one key to bringing people far from God near to Him, I simply say, ‘Start throwing great dinner parties.’

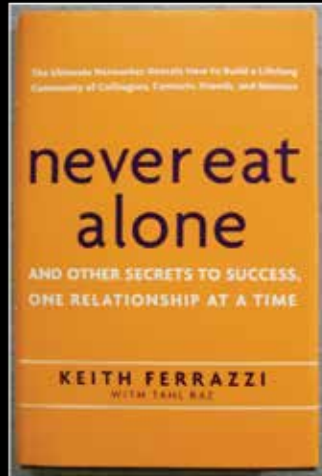
”  
Hugh Halter, *The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community*

37

What do we learn from Jesus’ meal with Levi?

1. Levi took the initiative so that his friends could meet Jesus.

38



39

“

7 out of 10 unchurched people have  
never been invited to church in their  
whole lives.

Dr. Thom Rainer, *The Unchurched Next Door*

”

40

What do we learn from Jesus' meal with Levi?

2. Things were going well until the Pharisees showed up.

41

<sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

<sup>32</sup>I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:30-32 (NIV)

42

Luke 5:30-32 (NIV)

Jesus' response to the Pharisees' criticism:

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"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

43

What do we learn from Jesus' meal with Levi?

3. Jesus' method of calling sinners to repentance often involved eating with them first.

44

“Frisco First is a community of believers that invite people into relationship with Jesus and each other.”

45

Often the relationship comes first.  
Do you have any unchurched or unbelieving friends? If not, why not?  
What are you doing to get your friends to Jesus?

46

Who would you like to introduce to  
Jesus?

What steps are you taking to invite  
them into a closer relationship with  
you and Jesus?

47



48 Group

Rosario+Butterfield.jpeg+3.jpeg





49 Group

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50 Group

End Theme Slide