

Fellowship, Nearness, and Food

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- I. Introduction—memorable meals
- II. Rich food (creation and food)
 - a. Physicality matters
 - b. Food is not morally neutral (Genesis 2:16–17)
- III. Rotten food (The fall and food)
 - a. Genesis 3:1–13
 - b. Misuses of food
 - i. In the wilderness (Exodus 32)
 - ii. On the plains of Moab (Numbers 25:2)
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 6:13
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 8—food as a means toward loving others or toward disunity
- IV. Redeemed food (redemption, consummation, and food): Food as fellowship
 - a. The Passover Meal (Exodus 12)
 - b. The sacrificial system
 - i. The peace offering
 - ii. Exodus 24:9–11
 - iii. Deuteronomy 12:7
 - c. Jesus’ ministry
 - i. Notice how much of Jesus’ ministry occurred in the context of meals
 - ii. Meals got Jesus in trouble (Luke 7:34)
 - iii. “This is why eating and drinking were so important in the mission of Jesus: they were a sign of his friendship with tax collectors and sinners. His ‘excess’ of food and ‘excess’ of grace are linked. In the ministry of Jesus, meals were enacted grace, community, and mission” (Tim Chester, *A Meal with Jesus*, 14)
 - iv. The Last Supper
 1. Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:22–59)
 2. Jesus is the Passover lamb whose blood was shed on our behalf
 - d. Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6–9)
- V. Food for thought
 - a. Everyday meals
 - i. Look up (toward God). Psalm 34:8
 - ii. Look down (toward the food)
 1. “Don’t eat strawberry pie like an atheist!” (Steve DeWitt, *Eyes Wide Open*, 120)
 2. 1 Timothy 4:3b–5
 - iii. Look around (toward the others at your table)
 1. Do you ever pay more attention to the food on the table than to the people at the table?

2. Three questions
 - a. Do you generally eat your meals with others?
 - b. Do you prioritize meals as an opportunity to build relationship?
 - c. Are you hospitable? “A first step in making a place for hospitality may be to make room in our hearts. Whether or not we can always find room in our houses, welcome begins with dispositions characterized by love and generosity.” (Christine Pohl, *Making Room*, 152)

- b. The Lord’s Supper
 - i. What is a sacrament? (See Tim Chester, *Truth We Can Touch*)
 1. John Calvin: “an outward sign by which the Lord seals on our consciences the promises of his good will toward us in order to sustain the weakness of our faith.”
 2. Stephen Charnock: “the gospel sacraments seal the gospel promises, as a ring confirms the covenant of marriage.”
 3. A meal that involves remembrance (looking back), anticipation (looking forward), and participation (in the present moment).
 4. The main course is Jesus himself! (John 6:56)
 - ii. Why a tangible meal?
 1. “We do not get a different or better Christ in the sacraments than we do in the Word . . . But we may get the same Christ better, with a firmer grasp of his grace through seeing, touching, feeling, and tasting as well as hearing.” (Sinclair Ferguson, *The Whole Christ*, 223).
 2. “All our senses are thus engaged so that our frail faith might be matured.” (Chester, *Truth We Can Touch*, 35)
 - iii. Two implications
 1. How often should we partake of the Lord’s Supper?
 2. Notice the corporate aspect of the Lord’s Supper

VI. Conclusion: David and Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)

- a. “You shall eat at my table always.”
- b. “Everything . . . creation, redemption, mission—is ‘for’ this: that we might eat together in the presence of God. God created the world so that we might eat with him. The food we consume, the table around which we sit, and the companions gathered with us have as their end our communion with one another and with God.” (Chester, *A Meal with Jesus*, 138).