

CALL to PRAYER - Thank God for His grace - a grace that is greater than all our sin

Matthew 9:9-13 - Eating With Jesus

Intro - Today we again have the privilege to come together and celebrate the Lord's Supper. This simple (yet sacred) meal is set apart by our LORD as the way to celebrate and remember our Savior. This meal is the only sanctioned/approved Christian holiday ("Do this..."). This meal is not fancy or extravagant and we must eat it in faith if we are to truly benefit and celebrate it. Without faith it is impossible for this meal to please God. As we eat today, I want to encourage us to believe something - that Jesus Christ is a friend of sinners...that Jesus eats with sinners and fellowships with sinners. Jesus Christ embraces sinners as they are though He doesn't leave them as they are. This is true because the *Friend of Sinners* is also the *Physician for sinners*. He cleanses them as He feeds them. Last Supper - Jesus washed feet as He fed and fellowshiped.

I don't know if this is # 6 in our series LD&LAD...but we do eat this meal in anticipation. We eat in faith looking to the future. We eat this meal, on this day, looking forward to that New Day...a greater day. We eat in anticipation of a day when we will have a great feast with our Great Savior. On that day we will see Him, embrace Him and eat with Him and all those He has graciously redeemed. O what a glorious day that will be! This meal today is like a rehearsal dinner... a practice run getting ready for the real deal. So, let's prepare our hearts to partake.

1. Jesus seeks out sinners
 - a. Matt. 9:9
 - b. Jesus sought out Matthew (not the other way about) John 15:16a
 - c. Luke 19:5 Zaccheus didn't invite Jesus in...Jesus invited Himself into Zaccheus' home/heart
 - d. Luke 19:10
 - e. Thank God that Jesus sought you out to save you
2. Jesus eats with sinners
 - a. Matt. 9:10-11
 - b. Jesus is a "hands on" Savior
 - i. He didn't bristle to embrace the leper or sit with the sinner
 - ii. He touched the unclean and lifted up the broken *"He Touched Me"*
 - iii. He washed dirty feet and cleansed filthy souls
 - iv. Jesus is the God who is near...near to those in need.
 - c. Jesus is a friend to sinners
 - i. This was an insult they used against Him - Matt. 11:18-19
 - ii. This slur means He is a Savior (even His enemies acknowledge this - Matt. 27:42)
 - iii. 1 Tim. 1:15
3. Jesus heals sinners
 - a. Matt. 9:12
 - b. The Friend of Sinners is also the Physician for sinners.
 - c. Sin is a sickness and only Jesus has the cure. (Isaiah 43:11; 45:21b-22)
 - d. Jesus eats with us to heal us. Friend & Physician (Ps. 103:2-3)

4. Jesus only calls sinners
 - a. Matt. 9:13
 - b. Jesus loves the lost, but He rejects the righteous
 - i. Luke 19:10
 - c. This meal is not for those who think they are good ...it is only for those who know they are bad
 - i. Jesus – seeks/eats/heals/calls/savessinners...only sinners
 1. “Good” people need not apply
 - d. If you are a sinner then there is hope for you - for Jesus is the Savior of sinners
 - i. This meal reminds us that He eats with sinners
5. We eat in anticipation
 - a. 1 Cor. 11:26
 - b. Matt. 26:29
 - c. There is a dual purpose to our service today
 - i. Prepare our hearts for this meal
 - ii. Prepare our hearts for heaven
 - d. We eat in faith today...<....we eat in faith looking forward to that New Day when we will eat face to face.
 - i. The Savior with His multitude of redeemed sinners having supper
 - ii. Guess what – we won’t be sinners then - SAVED
 - iii.

Open / Close Communion

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Discern the Body

Let the Redeemed of the Lord celebrate

“Man of Sorrows”

329 - *“Grace Greater than Our Sin”*