

BLESS: Let's Eat Together

Opener: How has sharing a meal with someone made a difference in your relationship with them?

Scripture

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, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. ²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ 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?” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

³³ They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.” Luke 5:27-35

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. I Peter 4:9

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus often shared a meal with others, including those who weren’t considered popular or socially acceptable. As it turns out, eating with others helps build relationships and provides opportunities to bless them. Why did Jesus call out to Levi in the first place? Luke 5:27-29
2. What did Jesus accomplish by going to the banquet Levi prepared in His honor? How does His response to the Pharisee’s complaints apply to us today? Luke 5:29-35
3. “Hospitality” means being warm, friendly and kind to those around us. What makes hospitality and eating together so powerful?
4. Why would sharing a meal deepen a friendship?
5. How can we cultivate opportunities to eat with others?
6. What are some excuses we make for not sharing a meal with someone? What excuses do we make for not inviting people into our homes?
7. How does eating together affect our fellowship at church?

Wrap Up

Biblical hospitality isn’t about entertaining people. It’s about sharing life and love with others by sharing meals. We can truly make a difference one meal at a time! Eating together gives us the opportunity to connect by talking, laughing, and sharing. Perhaps the most common excuse for not eating together is that there just isn’t enough time. This seems to be our excuse for everything, but 99% of the time it’s just that, an excuse. We do have time. When we say we don’t have time for something it means we haven’t made it a priority. Does that sound like it’s a challenge? Maybe that’s because it is.