

Dining with Jesus

What did Jesus eat (customary foods/dining situations)?

- Foundation of Jesus' diet: bread
- Other dietary staples at this time and in this region: wine and oil (usually from olives)
- Other normal dietary choices: legumes, figs, grapes, olives
- Other fruits and other vegetables were included in the diet depending on the region and the season
- Other common drink choices: goat and sheep's milk
- Meat was eaten but it was rare to have it for typical daily meal
 - Typically reserved for celebratory, festival, and sacrificial meals

When did Jesus dine?

- Common practice during this time and in this region to eat 2 daily meals
 - First meal > late morning
 - Second meal > evening
- Several different ritual meals throughout the year
 - Passover is an example of a ritual meal (celebrated at the Last Supper)
 - Different foods were served at these ritual meals depending on what was being celebrated or remembered
 - Unleavened flat bread was eaten at the Passover meal which commemorated the Israelite exodus from Egypt
 - Exodus 12:15 - "Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel."
 - Unleavened bread was eaten because there was no time for the Israelites to wait for the bread to rise before leaving Egypt to escape Pharaoh's bondage

Why do we dine?

- Reasons we eat:
 1. To receive nourishment
 2. To discuss differences or workout conflict
 3. To form and build relationships
 4. To teach

Why did Jesus dine?

- 1) To Nourish
 - Jesus ate with His disciples at the Last Supper
 - Luke 22:15 - "And he (Jesus) said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
 - Not a daily meal; it was a ritual meal celebrating Passover therefore it was likely more symbolic and ritualistic
 - Meal would have provided Jesus some energy for all that was ahead of Him

- Knew that He would need sustenance to give Him strength to endure the suffering that would occur
 - Lack of sleep, walking, beatings, carrying of His cross, and crucifixion
 - Multiple instances in scripture where we can find Jesus eating as well as multiple instances where it specifically says that Jesus is hungry
 - Matthew 4:1-3 Jesus is in the wilderness fasting for 40 days and 40 nights
 - Becomes hungry and is tempted by the devil
 - The devil tries to use Jesus' physical need against Him
 - Tries to convince Jesus to turn stones into bread to quench his hunger
 - Verse 3: "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."
 - Jesus resists the temptation but nevertheless was physically hungry after His time of fasting
 - Book of Matthew and Mark where Jesus is traveling back from the town of Bethany
 - Both accounts mention that Jesus was hungry (Matthew 21:18 and Mark 11:12)
 - Walks up to a fig tree but finds no figs
 - Curses the fig tree and it immediately begins to wither away
- 2) To Discuss Differences/To confront those with opposing beliefs
- Last Supper we see Him discuss His future betrayal
 - Matthew 26:20-25: "Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said."
 - Jesus uses Last Supper as a time to confront His betrayer
 - Wanted Judas to know that He knew what was about to take place
 - Jesus does not get angry and lose sight of the main focus of this meal with His disciples
 - Other instances in the scriptures where, while dining, Christ has discussions with those that opposed His teachings
 - Luke chapter 11 we see one of the Pharisees ask Jesus to sit and dine with him (Luke 11:37-53)
 - Luke 11:38: "he (Pharisee) marvelled that he (Jesus) had not first washed before dinner."
 - The Pharisees were very focused on following their religious law and tradition
 - Jesus was more concerned about the hearts and intentions of people
 - Used this interaction as an opportunity to confront the Pharisee about the flaws in their practices and beliefs
 - Luke 11:39-44: "And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and

not to leave the other undone. Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.”

- Jesus scolded the Pharisees for their focus on the outward rather than what was on the inside
- Jesus also scolded them for their desire for praise and attention, their treatment of others, and corruption of others with their beliefs
- Pharisees tried to provoke Jesus and to catch Him saying something that was contrary to the law
- Christ was always able to overcome their opposition and share the teachings of His Father

3) To Form and Build relationships

- We see this bonding take place at the Last Supper
 - John 15:12-15 Jesus says “ This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”
 - Jesus knew all things including knowing each of these men intimately but He still had a desire to strengthen this bond with them
 - Christ loved His disciples completely and unconditionally
 - This is the type of love that He wants us to extend to others
 - Tells His disciples that the greatest way that one can show that they have love for a friend is to lay down their life for that friend
 - He was foreshadowing what was going to occur in the near future when He would lay down His life for all mankind and He was also trying to convince His disciples to live with this same attitude
 - This is the sign of a true friendship and not a typical master-servant relationship
- Jesus spent time at the Last Supper sharing with His disciples about who He was and who His Father was
 - John 14: 6-7: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.”
 - John 14:11-14 “Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”
- Jesus also tries to offer His disciples comfort about the future after telling them that He will have to leave them
 - John 14:26-28 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye

loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”

- Jesus tells them that the Holy Spirit will come and teach them and remind them of the things that He has shared with them
- Tells them not to be troubled and not to be afraid
- Tells His disciples that He will go away and then return to them in the future
- Tells them that if they truly love Him that they will be happy for Him to go and to be with His Father, who is greater than He
- We see another example of Jesus using His time dining to form and build relationships in the book of Luke
 - Luke 7:36-50: well-known story of the sinful woman and the alabaster box
 - Luke 7:36-38: “And one of the Pharisees desired him (Jesus) that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.”
 - Christ sits down to dine with a Pharisee who had invited Him in to dine
 - A woman who is an uninvited guest as well as a known sinner enters and sits at Jesus’ feet and begins to use her own tears and an expensive bottle of perfume to clean Jesus’ feet
 - She uses her hair to wipe His feet and then kisses His feet
 - She has heard about Christ and who He is and the things that He has done and comes seeking to know Him and receive forgiveness from Him
 - Jesus sees her humble, repentant heart and her desire to know Him and to find forgiveness and peace
 - Luke 7:48: Jesus says “Thy sins are forgiven.”
 - Luke 7:50: Jesus says “Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.”
 - Jesus was happy to offer her peace and forgiveness and He was pleased to be able to call her one of His own

4) To Teach

- Jesus used His dining time as an opportunity to teach those around Him
- Jesus not only taught by speaking but He taught through His actions
 - John 13: Jesus washes the feet of His disciples
 - Jesus wanted to teach His disciples about living with a servant mentality
 - John 13:12-15: “So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”
 - Jesus wants to teach them to take this servant mentality out into the world and serve others
- Jesus teaches His disciples about the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper
 - Luke 22:19-20: “And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”

- Provided example of what He wanted them to do to commemorate this meal
 - Continue this tradition of breaking bread in remembrance of His death
 - We continue to remember this today in our churches as we celebrate the Lord's Supper
- Jesus teaches His disciples about the Holy Spirit
 - John 14:26: Jesus tells His disciples that He will send a comforter to be with them
 - John 16:8: the Holy Ghost "will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"
 - John 16:13: the Holy Ghost will guide them into all truth and will show them things to come
- Jesus teaches and warns His disciples about the hatred and persecution that they will face in the future
 - John 15:18-21: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."
- Jesus gathers with His disciples after His resurrection and He continues to teach
 - Luke 24:35-49 Jesus appears to His disciples while they are gathered together to dine after the resurrection
 - Luke 24:40-43-"...he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of broiled fish and an honeycomb. And he took it and did eat before them."
 - while they were gathered together He taught them about His fulfilling of the prophecy through His death and resurrection
 - Luke 24:44 - "That all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."
 - Luke 24:45 - "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures."
 - Jesus tells His disciples about His suffering, death, and resurrection
 - He goes on to teach them about spreading the gospel to all nations
 - Even after His death Jesus continues to teach and reinforce all that He desires the disciples to know and do

Conclusion:

- Throughout His life Jesus dined with many different people and in many different situations
 - He dined with His closest friends
 - Those that did not know Him
 - Those that opposed Him
- Jesus dined for 4 main reasons
 - He dined to nourish Himself and gain energy to carry out His daily activities
 - He used dining as a time to talk with those that were opposed to His teachings
 - Jesus used it as a time to form and build relationships
 - He used it as a time to teach others about who He was and who His Father was
- He always focused on His ultimate goal of glorifying the name of His Father