

Impact of One: Meal

Ah food!

It is certainly one of my favourite topics.

Did I mention there is lunch following the service today?

I sure hope you can stay for the meal and conversation around the tables.

Food always goes better with people.

And people seem to go better with food.

It's a Win/Win

There is something about food that brings out conversation.

It's nice to talk about something other than the weather or Calgary's loss.

It should be an interesting game on Tuesday against the Black Hawks.

I doubt that will be a Win/Win.

So why not stay for lunch today?

At a table you can talk about other meal times.

You can reflect on your most enjoyable or memorable meal.

Like the meal Dorothy and I ate in South Korea.

It was at least memorable.

It was the meal where she sat on the floor and started to cry.

And we hadn't even ordered the food yet.

You can talk about your favourite foods.

You can talk about international foods.

You can talk about food that set your mouth on fire.

Or the food you broke a tooth on.

Or the food that required the Heimlich maneuver.

Or the food that, "I can't believe I ate 3 servings.

Or the 100 foot salad bar.

Or the spaghetti-bowl-upside-down-on-the-floor meal.

Food makes an impact on our lives.

We all have our preferences.

Meat, vegetarian, sweet, spicy, cooked, raw, breakfast, lunch, supper, fried.

We all have our traditions.

But there is one meal that is the same everywhere.

It is a meal people share all over the world.

It is a meal that knows no borders or nationalities.

It is a meal shared regardless of meat vs. vegetables.

You know what that meal is.

It is a meal we are going to share together.

It is a meal that removes differences and individual desires.

It is a meal with a simple menu.

It is not complicated or cluttered.

And the best part is it is a meal we can all afford.

It doesn't cost us a thing.

But that does not mean it is cheap.

If we tried to buy that meal no one here would have enough money.

We could pool all our money together and still not have enough.

It is a meal provided by the Master Chef.

In fact He is the Master of everything.

It is the meal Jesus has prepared for us.

It is the meal shared at His table.

We come as His guests.
And we eat what He has provided.
It is not designed to satisfy us physically.
It doesn't fill an empty stomach.
It does something far greater and more important.
What Jesus offers us fills an empty heart.
What He offers satisfies a futile life.
He offers Himself.
One meal, celebrated by His Church globally.
One meal that transforms our hunger pangs.
One meal that brings people together as one.
One meal that erupts in love.
One meal that ends bitterness and complaint.
One meal that reveals who we are.
One meal that reveals God with us.

I need a meal like that.

Whether you realize it or not, so do you.

And Jesus invites you to join with Him in sharing this meal.

In the fellowship hall the tables are ready for our pot luck lunch.

But they are also ready for our communion meal.

Maybe you have been wondering, how will we have communion?

Maybe you noticed there are no trays of juice and bread.

As Abraham said to Isaac, "The Lord will provide."

It is all ready in the fellowship hall.

We are going to commune with each other around tables.

That is what communion is, relating to one another.

In a moment we will move to the fellowship hall.

As we do, I invite you to sit with your family.

If you have no family here today, don't worry, someone will adopt you.

Let's embrace this opportunity to share communion around tables.

That is where Jesus broke the bread with His disciples.

They were not in a sanctuary sitting on pews facing the front.

They were in a home, sitting at a table facing each other.

The Passover was a family meal.

It was after that meal that Jesus passed the bread and cup.

On the heels of the Passover Covenant, Jesus made a new Covenant.

He excluded no one from the Last Supper.

Everyone is invited to join us around the tables.

Please, resist the temptation to exclude yourself.

Jesus wants to embrace us all so please come.

If you are visiting today please don't be shy.

Communion is for all who follow Jesus.

And the fact you are here shows you have followed Jesus.

As we move to the tables let's do so with thankful hearts.

And as we move to sit around the tables I want you to think about something.

I want you to think about an experience when a communion meal impacted you.

If you wish to share that experience, you will have opportunity as we sit.

Let's prayerfully and gratefully enter our "Upper Room".

As you get settled at your table a Board member will then serve you.

The impact of one meal.

This meal reminds us of Jesus' life-giving sacrifice.

His blood was shed and His body broken for us to receive forgiveness.

During this time we also anticipate Jesus' return.

Every time we celebrate, something new should be experienced.

We receive a new understanding, a new direction, a new joy or peace.

We have a deeper insight into our own lives and where Jesus intersects.

We make a new surrender a fresh commitment.

As Jesus invites us to Himself we invite Him into our lives.

Jesus has made everything ready for you.

We simply celebrate with sincere and thankful hearts.

We come with gratitude to our Father.

Jesus, in His resurrection power does amazing things at His table.

Jesus is living and dynamically present at His table.

Holding the cup and broken bread help us know the reality of Jesus.

Our thanksgivings do not fall on deaf ears.

He hears and speaks to us in return.

And that is the impact of one meal.

Breaking bread together is not about ritual.

Breaking bread together is about relationship.

That is what Jesus desired with His disciples.

He desired a new covenant relationship.

A giving and receiving of Himself.

Jesus' desire was to impact His disciples' lives.

He knew the world they were forsaking to follow Him.

He knew the world would not let go easily.

The world would clutch and grab and drag at the disciples.

Jesus knew the battle that faith in Him would bring.

The disciples would betray Him, deny Him, forsake Him.

The disciples would dispute with each other.

Satan would do his best to discourage and destroy them

Only a covenant would offer a stable and strong relationship.

And that is what Jesus desires today, with you.

May the impact of this one meal give you stamina to serve each other!

May the impact of this one meal give you strength to serve each other!

Song - Be Present At Our Table Lord