



Let's say you were invited to an event and you were told there would be food? Then say you skipped lunch, not concerning yourself with it, because you knew you where you were going and there would be food. However, when you show up expecting *FOOD*, suppose instead you find hors d'oeuvres. Have you ever tried to satisfy a considerable appetite with cheese squares and fruit? Have you ever been embarrassed at how hungry you came? Have you ever noticed how tiny those plates are? Have you ever gone through the line, sampling and tasting all you wanted until your stomach was no longer growling, but your appetite was still not satisfied? Have you ever left said event and stopped for a cheeseburger on your way home because you felt like you needed something more? Have you ever tried to talk yourself out of the cheeseburger all the way there because you had dinner and really shouldn't need it? Have you ever found yourself really enjoying a real dinner?

Maybe it was all the fondue, but this little event got me thinking about my relationship with Jesus.

In Psalm 34:8, the future King David, after just experiencing deliverance from God, implores those around him to 'taste and see that the Lord is good.' He is basically challenging them (and us) to experience the Lord for ourselves and see that He is good. He knows what we find when we taste and wants others to experience that too. But based on my experience with all the appetizers and a thorough reading of scripture, it occurred to me we can't stop with tasting. Tasting is good. Tasting is the beginning of eating, there is nothing wrong with tasting. But we cannot stay just a taster. We must move from tasters and samplers to diners...feasters.

I think many of us come to Jesus hungry, but instead of dining, we try to fill our soul on the appetizers. We take the things that look good to us and seem to fit on our tiny little plate, but we never really feast. We experience just enough that our immediate need feels better, but deep down, we are not truly satisfied.

Hebrews 6:4-6 gives a grave warning about this kind of tasting. When we are intellectually enlightened, tasting the things of God, but we never move to dining, we are in great danger. Knowing something and living it are not the same thing. Just like hors d'oeuvres and a banquet are not the same.

In John 8:31-32, Jesus put it this way. He said to the Jews that believed in Him, "if you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free."

The promise is dependent on the context. The truth alone doesn't make you free, you have to believe the truth. The promise is to those who trust in Him. But Jesus doesn't stop there. He says to continue in His Word, hold to His teachings, abide with Him. Fill yourself up with Him. Then you will become a true disciple. Not in name only, but in deed. Then you will *know* the truth. This kind of 'know' is not from knowledge, but from experience, from living it out. This is a knowledge that comes from walking in the light, not just seeing the light. When we do that, we are free. Jesus is the Truth and the Light. He is where our soul finds complete satisfaction. But we have to take all of Him, we have to believe Him, we have to trust Him, we have to surrender our little plates to Him and let Him give us a seat at His table, we have to let our souls be filled with Him alone.

One of the most beautiful images of heaven in scripture is that of the wedding feast of the Lamb. The last book of the Bible ends with an invitation to a feast. Isaiah 25:6 says it will be a lavish feast of the richest foods. Jesus is not just inviting you to appetizers. He is inviting you to dine with Him, at His table- the place where you will not leave hungry.

If your soul is not truly satisfied, could it be because you are trying to fill yourself up with small bites that are manageable and fit on your plate, but you have never really accepted the invitation to pull up your chair to the banquet? Could it be you are just sampling Jesus?

The invitation stands. But what you choose to dine on is up to you.

Come all you who are thirsty. Come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen to me and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the riches of fare. Isaiah 55:1-2

If you need a bible please let us know at 390-2211 or gabe@gracekleincommunity.com

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" - Hebrews 13:16