

A watercolor illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with some trees. In the middle ground, a town is built on a hillside, featuring a prominent lighthouse with a white tower and a dark top. To the left of the town, a large sea stack rises from the water. The sky is filled with soft, white and blue clouds, and a single bird is seen flying in the upper right. The overall color palette is warm and muted, with shades of brown, green, blue, and white.

The Gospel of

Luke

## Luke 5:30, 33

30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at Jesus' disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ... 33 And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink."

# Covenant Eating

- Garden of Eden (Gen. 2-3) - eat from all trees except that one
- After the Flood (Gen. 9) - eat meat but not the blood
- After the Exodus (Lev. 11) - avoid unclean meat; eat a kosher diet



*“Thus says the LORD... Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.... for I... give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.” (Isaiah 43:16, 18-21)*

## Luke 5:30-32

30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

## Luke 5:33-35

33 And they said to him, “The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink.” 34 And Jesus said to them, “Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? 35 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.”

## Luke 5:36-37

36 He also told them a parable: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.

37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed.”

## Luke 5:38-39

38 “But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’”





Wineskins

“Something very significant happens at a meal. We are hungry. We are in need. And that need is met only by something outside our bodies... When people eat together, they experience something more than a physical event. A spiritual event takes place, whether they acknowledge it or not.”

“God has provided a means to sustain life outside our own lives, and whenever we eat, we are experiencing God’s care and provision. The meal [also] creates an experience of unity—of oneness at a table... We are one in our need and one in taking God’s provision for our need—thus, we have communion.” (J. Vanderstelt)

In what ways might you view meals differently if you realized that every one is a way to remember and display the gospel?



1. Christians eat with joy, grateful and satisfied with what God has provided.

2. Christians eat in freedom, leaving behind the old wine of the levitical food laws.

3. Christians keep a generous table,  
freely sharing with those in need.

4. Christians eat together regularly, to build one another up and become an intimate, mutually supportive spiritual family.



5. Christians practice gospel hospitality, dining with the stranger, the sin-sick, the lonely, the broken, even their enemies, so that they might experience God's welcome and gracious embrace.

“We regularly eat meals with others as a display of the love, provision, and acceptance of God. We overcome idols like selfishness (giving up ‘family time’ and the extra cost to feed others), perfection (‘the house is a mess’), safety (‘they’re not like me’), and control (when folks just show up). We ‘lay down our lives’ and invite people in—followers of Jesus or not—and generously share good food and drink with them.”

“You’re already eating, probably three times a day. Don’t do it alone. Do it with others and watch Jesus join you at the table and change the meal. He’s well acquainted with joining people at the table. Invite him to dinner with a few others and see what he does.” (J. Vanderstelt)

- How often do you share a meal with people in your faith community? With those who don't believe in the same things as you? Why?
- Who is at least one person in our faith community and one person in your mission field with whom you'll eat this month?