

Devoted to Breaking Bread

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Nine)

Acts 2:42

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

“On the first day of the week we came together to break bread...” (Acts 20:7)

A. “Devoted...to breaking bread,” is about how we are to live our life

“When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table...” (Luke 22:14)

“I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom...” (Luke 22:29-30)

“When he was at table with them [Jesus] took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.” (Luke 24:30)

B. “To break bread together” underscores the power of a meal

COME TO THE TABLE

A. The Table is a very familiar place in our lives

B. The Table is an intimate family gathering place

1. Presence is important; the gathering cherished
2. During the meal, everyone was considered family

C. The Table is the place where food is shared

1. The food provides replenishment, and renewal of our strength
2. In every culture, a meal establishes the common life and rhythm

D. The Table is the place for feasting

“With such a dinner we all agreed that life, even in the Antarctic Regions, was worth living.” (Robert Falcon Scott)

E. The Table is marked by faithfulness

F. The Table is the place where forgiveness (and grace) are offered

1. At the Table we set our personal agenda and life aside; to eat is to be one
2. The association of food with love is again affirmed

G. The Table is the place where favor and blessing are extended

THE POWER OF TABLE

A. This is what God wants his church to be

1. Children mimic the rituals of adults and quickly learn the intimacy of table

“This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me...” (1 Cor. 11:24)

2. The bread and the wine have the power to get us to the Table...together

3. In doing so they provide us with the ultimate comfort food...

- a. We recall the memories of God’s presence throughout our life...
 - b. We’re reminded we’ve have been redeemed, forgiven, and embraced by God because of his Son’s sacrifice. We are his sons and daughters - family
 - c. We’re invited as family to gather around a table that promotes fellowship, grace, healing, love, forgiveness, and unity
- ##### 4. The power of breaking bread together is a transformed life, a changed destiny, and family worth belonging to

B. The Table reminds us, “We are family.” Eating says, “We are one family in Jesus”

1. *Breaking Bread* is an opportunity for us to experience who we are
2. The early Church, “*devoted themselves...to the breaking of bread.*” So must we

C. It’s hard to imagine a better ”dinner”

