

THE DINING ROOM

(My Heart, Christ's Home; Message Four)

Isaiah 55:1-5

- A. Today one of the traditionally most used places in the house is one of the most underutilized. We have traded satisfaction for convenience
 - 1. We want our spirituality comfortable and convenient instead of transforming and disciplined
 - 2. Spiritually we're willing to settle for much less; good enough is good enough

ESSENTIALS

- A. Spiritual Transformation begins by acknowledging our deep desire for God
- B. Scripture says we desire God because God desires us
 - 1. Our deep longing for God fuels our spiritual journey
 - 2. We need to peel through the surface layers of selfish desires to get to our deepest desires - love, community, meaning, purpose, wholeness

"I want you now God or else." (cf. Psalm 42; The Message)
- C. What is the one thing you want God to do for you?
 - 1. *"What is your pearl of great price? Would you sell everything to attain it?"*
 - 2. *"How bad do you want him?" "Like a deer panting for water?"*
 - 3. *"Are you willing to invite Jesus in so he can (re-)arrange your life?"*

EXCUSES

- A. We often procrastinate because life is so busy; we're always in a hurry
 - 1. Hurry sickness is highly contagious; it's spiritually dangerous
 - 2. In our hurry, we miss the feast God has prepared for us
- B. We're so accustomed to junk food, we've actually learned to "enjoy" it
 - 1. Our favorite dishes: money, influence, academic degrees, and titles
 - 2. The world's fare upsets our spiritual stomachs
- C. We're in denial. We believe we're the exception to the rule (We're not!)

EATING DISORDERS

- A. Meanwhile, our souls are starving
 - 1. Isaiah says we spend our money on what isn't nourishing, and our attention on what has not provided meaning

- 2. Isaiah warns about settling for less than God's best

"Don't work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." (John 6:27)

- B. Jesus provides richest of fare/food. He offers
 - 1. Food that brings inner peace whenever you face troubles and difficulties...
 - 2. Food that offers hope, joy, and significance
- C. The principle - *"What goes in is what comes out"* - also applies to our souls
- D. Chose carefully

ENCOURAGEMENT

- A. First: If you give Jesus control of your Dining Room, he'll do a menu audit
 - 1. *"What are you choosing to feed your soul?"*
 - 2. *"How much time do you spend reading God's Word?"*
- B. Second: If you give Jesus control, he'll require you eat a balanced meal

*Eat right! Grow strong. Face to the sun got my feet on the Rock
Got a clean heart, pure mind; Standing on the promises (Peder Eide)*
- C. Third: If you give Jesus control, you'll watch your morning and evening intake
 - 1. The most important times to watch eating are breakfast and after 8:00 p.m.
 - 2. Take a very practical step: Put a Bible next to your bed

*"What so ever you ask He will do / Abide in Him He abides in you / That's a promise
that's been given to you / I gotta do what I gotta do / Believe deceivers or believe the
Lord / I've grounded myself in the Holy Word. Eat right..." (Peder Eide)*
- D. Fourth: If you give Jesus control you'll develop a taste for the richest of fare
 - 1. How much do you want to know God? (Ps. 73:25; 42:1-2; 143:6; Is. 26:9)
 - 2. How much do you want God to do His work in you? (Eph. 2:10)
 - 3. How much do you want righteousness and holiness? (1 Peter 1:14-16)
 - 4. How much do you want wisdom? (Proverbs 2:2-5; 3:13-18; James 1:5;)
 - 5. How much do you want God to heal you? (John 5:1-15)
 - 6. How much do you want to be blessed and bear fruit? (Jn 15:7-8; Gen. 39:2-3)
 - 7. How much do you want to follow Jesus? (Luke 9:23)
- E. Listen again to his invitation directed especially to you: *"Come, all 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? But listen...eat what is good and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Hear me so your soul may live"* (Isaiah 55:1-5)