

Dinner with Jesus pt. 1 – A Seat at the Table
Sunday, September 7, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

Open Up:

- If you had a slogan, what would it be?
- If you could have dinner with anyone (besides Jesus), who would it be and why?
- What's the most memorable meal you've ever shared with others, and what made it meaningful?

Read Together:

Matthew 11:19

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

Luke 5:27-32

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Discuss Together:

- What stood out to you from the message this week?
- Matthew 11:19 says, "*The Son of Man came eating and drinking...*" –what surprises you about Jesus being described this way?
- Why do you think meals were such a central part of Jesus' ministry?
- When Jesus called Levi (Matthew), his immediate response was to throw a banquet. What does that say about his joy in following Jesus?

- The Pharisees judged Jesus for eating with “tax collectors and sinners.” Why do you think sharing a meal was so scandalous in that culture—and what might be the equivalent today?
- Jesus said his table is for the sick, not the healthy. How does that reshape the way we think about who belongs in church?
- Leonard Sweet wrote, *“The church can set a table for anyone anywhere.”* What does it look like for our church to live this out in practical ways?
- Jesus described his work as “new wine” that requires “new wineskins.” What “new” do you think Jesus might want to do in your life or in our church?
- Looking back over the message, what part encouraged you most about the invitation to take a seat at Jesus’ table?

Pray:

Pray for God to open your eyes to someone in your life who needs to know there’s a seat at the table with Jesus—and for courage to extend that invitation with love.

Invitation:

This week, share a meal (or coffee) with someone outside your usual circle—maybe a neighbor, coworker, or classmate—and intentionally practice the “open table” of Jesus by listening and sharing life together.

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