

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ:  
Meals as Enacted Grace  
Luke 5**

What difference does it make?

In a world of human alienation, the gospel of Jesus Christ invites despised, alienated sinners to receive meaning, healing, and acceptance through forgiveness in table hospitality, becoming devoted, hospitable servants and saints.

- I. Meeting sinners where they are: Loosening the iron fist grip of sin and alienation (Luke 5:1-28).
  - a. Fisherman's failure.
  - b. Lepper's slow death.
  - c. Paralytic's powerlessness.
  - d. Tax Collector's alienation.

Ap. - Don't let the fear of your failures and shortcomings keep you from experiencing the power of Jesus to transform your failures into his victories.

- II. Turning sinners into servants and saints: dining forgiveness with Jesus (Luke 5:27-35).
  - a. From despised to devoted.
  - b. From alienated to hospitable.

Ap. - Never underestimate the power of Jesus through table-hospitality to feed strangers into friends.

**Through repentance and forgiveness in table-hospitality  
Jesus turns foes into friends, curses into blessings,  
self-centered alienated sinners into self-giving servants and saints.  
Allow Jesus to turn your meals into opportunities  
to receive and share the grace of his forgiveness.**

1. What are the impossible challenges in your life that keep you away from experiencing God's presence and power? Ask Christ to draw you closer to him and loosen the grip of alienation from sin that seeks to paralyze and deprive you of what God wants for you.
2. The menu at Jesus' table is forgiveness through repentance. Are you ready to surrender the guilt and shame of your sin to him? He is willing to forgive us; are we willing to receive his forgiveness and then forgive others and ourselves?