

Food Part 3

“12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. 13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14:12-14 KJV)

In the above verses from the Scripture, Jesus was pointing to two types of invitations mentioned below:

A. **Worldly invitations:** The focus is on self and how pompous one is in order to receive the honor and the approval of men. Here Jesus recommended not to invite friends, brothers, relatives or rich neighbors because we would honor them and spend on them so that later on they would spend on us and honor us. *“12 Call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.” (Luke 14:12 KJV)* In such practices, the focus is self-glorification and not about God and His Word and His commands. Also, we won't be able to be good stewards if we use our time, food, and money on rich people who do not need us to treat them, neither do we need them to treat us. But we need to be on the move to share with those, who are in need and critical situations, what God had given to us. *“9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9 KJV)*

A. **God's Kingdom invitation:** Jesus is not speaking about hosting get together and inviting others. What Jesus is talking about in His Scripture is that when He blesses us, we need to bless others. But who will we bless and how? The focus is to invite people to God's Kingdom spending from our resources in order to bring them to God and teach them to do His will. *“13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14:13-14 KJV)* * Therefore Jesus recommends that if we have resources and want to host a banquet, then we ought to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And of course the crippled, the lame, and the blind will not be able to come to us, so if we want to invite them, then we need to go to them. And when we go to them we need to share with them not only the material things that God has blessed us with but above all the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ that brings salvation and gives eternal life to the people. * The real banquet that no one should miss is the banquet in Heaven that we would have with Jesus when He will come and take us with Him to Heaven to spend eternity with Him. *“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” (Revelation 19:9 KJV)*

When Jesus addresses the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, He is speaking about people who are in distress and facing crisis in the form of chronic sicknesses, joblessness, disabilities due to infirmities, and so on. We need to help such people. These people are not in the position to give. We need to give them in order to bring them out of the state of emergency in their lives. We need to offer them relief and then after their recovery, they need to be

rehabilitated to manage life. Finally, we need to train them and equip them to be fruitful and productive.

I have seen many who want to serve God without discretion and they invite people for food for the stomach ignoring the food for the soul. Their problems will not be solved with such kind of behaviors. Jesus did not minister to people in this way. He never used food to keep people with Him. Such a style will only exhaust us and empty our storehouse. Instead, we need to share with them God's Word and direct our resources to meet their needs in accordance with God's will and His good plan for their lives. The following food (Spiritual and Physical) we can share are:

- We can pray for the people and intercede on their behalf and ask the Lord to reveal Himself to them and satisfy their needs.
- We can share with them the message of Salvation, that Jesus had died for their sins on the cross to give them eternal life.
- We can advise them and instruct them from the Word of God so their problems would be solved and that they would have the right direction in their lives.
- We can share with them material things that they need like food, dress, lodging, transport, medical aid, medicine, and offer medical advice.

“1 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.” (Psalm 41:1 KJV) God calls us to be good stewards of whatever we have received from Him and to direct our resources to serve and minister to those who are in distress to bring them near to God in order to bring relief to them. Such kind of attitude will lead us and enable us to provide services to the community who are around us. God has called us to be a blessing to others. *“7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7 KJV)* We will be fruitful and effective for every mindful act of ours to the people in distress whom the Lord has placed around us. Jesus said the following: *“41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.” (Mark 9:41 KJV)* Oh yes indeed!

“9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. 12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.” (John 21:9-13 KJV) Here, we read about Jesus cooking food for His disciples. Jesus cared for His disciples who were discouraged because of the events of the crucifixion that had passed in front of their eyes. Jesus arranged suitable food for them to show His love and concern. We should also be aware of the fact that Jesus didn't order food from restaurants. There is no mention of restaurants in the Bible. But what I was able to see is that the disciples of Jesus and the people of God prepared their own food and carried it with them when they moved around to do God's ministry.

A. *“17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.” (Matthew 14:17 KJV)*

B. "34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes." (Matthew 15:34 KJV)

C. "25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them." (Genesis 42:25 KJV)

D. "23 And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning." (Exodus 16:23 KJV)

E. "17 And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou? 18 And he said unto him, We are passing from Bethlehem judah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Bethlehem judah, but I am now going to the house of the LORD; and there is no man that receiveth me to house. 19 Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing." (Judges 19:17-19 KJV)

The habit of eating in restaurants, especially every now and then is expensive and money-draining. We need to train ourselves to be independent in preparing our own food in our homes. That will be healthy as well as an economical way of life.

But in exceptional cases, when we travel, we may not be able to carry our food with us over long distances, or we may not be able to bring sufficient amount of food and in this case, we will need to buy our food from outside.

- "8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)" (John 4:8 KJV)

Also, the Bible speaks about an inn to eat and sleep while traveling, like a hotel or guest house at that time.

- "27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth." (Genesis 42:27 KJV)
- "21 And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand." (Genesis 43:21 KJV)
- "24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him." (Exodus 4:24 KJV)
- "7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7 KJV)
- "34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host,

and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee." (Luke 10:34-35 KJV)

Eating food in restaurants is several times the cost of the same food when we prepare it at home. Therefore, let us be good stewards of the resources given to us. This is the style and way of living that we need to adopt, and we need to teach our children to do the same. It is not God's will for man to waste money in restaurants. God's will for man is to cook his own food.

My Dear and Beloved: Let us come now to God meditating on the message that we received and commit ourselves to apply what we learned and be good stewards and faithful servants to Him. Let us commit ourselves to use our resources wisely in order to reach the lost and care for those who are in need, the poor and the crippled and give them the gospel of Jesus. Let us commit ourselves not to spend our resources on the worldly and the traditional practices that we received from the culture and our families' background. Let us also commit ourselves not to follow the practice of the world and follow the habit of eating in restaurants which can cause us much cost as well as eating unhealthy food.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the healthy food that you had given to sustain me to live for you and to serve you. Lord thank you for all the resources that you had placed in my hand, and thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that we received today from your Word.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess your bad stewardship and spending your money unwisely on expensive food and buying food from restaurants. Repent of using money and food to attract people who do not need such. Confess your non willingness to go to the poor, the sick and those who are in trouble and give them the gospel. Confess and renounce all your traditional and family practices that contradict the Scripture. Confess and renounce your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve God in the way that He wants you to serve. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to the teaching and to the principles that I received in this message from you. Lord I commit myself to use my resources wisely to reach the lost from among the poor and needy, those who are sick and those in troubles. Lord I commit myself to be diligent, good steward, to cook at home and to avoid buying readymade food and eating in restaurants.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your will in their lives and committed themselves to accept the principles we learned in this message. Lord use them to reach the lost and use their lives as good examples to others to follow you.

Lord we commit ourselves as your church to implement the teaching we received in this message. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and

receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to take us when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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