

Pastor Jordan Gades Sermon 4.18.21 **Luke 24:36b-48**

Grace and Peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ Amen.

Sometimes God must be seen, felt, and even tasted to be better understood. And in following with that mantra this will be a brief sermon, which I'm sure a few of you here and those watching and listening will be inwardly cheering about, since we have a couple of momentous events coming later in the service.

And while we have all this going on, all I can think about is food at the moment. You ever get that way? Maybe it was because I skipped breakfast. Maybe it's because I can still taste those mango habanero brats, perfectly grilled, eaten outside under the warm sun. Food does something weird to us. It really does. And the weirdest thing is that God designed us this way. Food has this special power not only over our own lives and our relationships with others. And it's a tricky relationship we have with just food itself. How much we eat, what we eat, how we make it and how we share it. Our food is a thick thread that binds so much of our society together.

That's been one of the losses for us this year, not being able to be together and eating together. Whether that's here in church or with friends and extended family at the 40 club. Though I will say, as a quick bright spot, I have tried out a lot of new recipes over the last year, to what I will call very mixed results, but some were very good.

The power of food, whether it tastes good or not, on our lives is a deep thing, ingrained in us from our creator. You can barely open your bible and not hit a story that has food as a part of it. Even in the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth and all the food in it and humanity decided to eat the one thing we shouldn't. We have a food center of controversy with the stealing of birth rites with Jacob and Esau; God providing for God's people with the manna and quail. We have stories where food brings people together with the story of Ruth and the prophet Elijah. There are stories of meager picnics and elaborate feasts and God working in and through them all. And then Jesus Shows up on the scene.

So, this might sound crazy but I think that Jesus was some sort of combination of a grandma who is like always asking you if you're hungry, and then has or makes you something no matter what your answer is, and also that one friend you have who is just always eating somehow, like no matter what, always pulls out the snacks is munching away. Does that make any sense? He rises from the dead and they know it's him because he asks for something to eat. I feel like this should be a defining characteristic, right?

Jesus is always feeding people and Jesus is always eating. I do not have time to list them all but it's just dang, this is how Jesus does his ministry. Jesus knows what kind of power food has. I mean he did create the world with the father so I would expect that, but the finesse. People will listen if they are content, people won't interrupt when they got something in their

mouth, people will sit and digest your words as they sit and digest their dinner. And then Jesus goes and mixes a sacrament into a holy meal.

We are created to come to the table. Jesus has led us to this table, his table. Through his ministry, through his life, death and rising again, we are being led back to our God's table where we stand shoulder to shoulder with not only all those we can see but also those we cannot, with all the saints that have come before us we join in this miraculous meal.

Our faith and our food are inexorably tied together. We know the power that it holds, the food we eat binds us together. And the breaking of bread and the blessing of wine binds us to God. Amen.