

Sermon - Psalm 65 Matthew 14:13-21, 26:26-29

“Don’t pass up a Great Meal Deal – There is enough to go all Around”

It’s not what it seems - the sermon title. It’s not even really what it says.

This is not about a Happy Meal coupon Deal - or 4 for \$5 at Arby’s, or Burger King’s August Special - Or even Andiamo’s July 2nd for 1 dinner special extended.

This is about more than food - and – truthfully, there is nothing like this meal deal in the world. Take – this is my body – the bread of life. This is my blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. I will drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom - Such a meal deal.

Please pray with me.

At this table, Lord, you invite us to meet with you – to receive the gifts you give us, and to share these gifts with one another. To be fed and to feed. Lord, speak through the words of my mouth and the thoughts of these your faithful and loving people, that you may be heard and your will be done. Amen.

My son Andy and his family are in Bolivia this morning on a short term Mission Trip with a group of teenagers. He emailed last night that his group was back in the city of Santa Cruz after two weeks in a village. In his mailing Andy said –

After two weeks of sharing the meager meals of the Bolivian villagers it was a shock to be surrounded by so much food in the city - Mc D’s, and BK’s, and other food places where they could see enough food thrown away to feed the village for a week or more.

And Andy wondered about the contrast – what it might mean to him as a Christian. And I wonder, too. Which meal is the foretaste of that meal we will share with Jesus in his father’s kingdom?

Yesterday I shared this meal, communion, the Lord’s Supper, with the oldest member of our church – Mary Coleman – who will celebrate her 100th Birthday this month.

We broke bread and shared the cup – and we talked a little about how close Mary is to sharing all this with Jesus – and with those she has loved and lost awhile – in God’s kingdom.

We talked about what a meal deal this really is. It is a reminder of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. It is a reminder of the sinfulness of human beings – still bodies being broken, blood being shed. It is a reminder of God’s promise to forgive us and to renew life in us. And it is a reminder of what life among us should be like. All sharing equally in the goods of life, none to go hungry.

Remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus? The Rich man would not even share with the poor man the scraps his dogs did not eat - and who finally dwelled in heaven forever?

This table is a reminder that the call to us is to invite the whole world to join us at this table.

To be Christ's guests here – yes – but then, by faith, guests at the table set for us in God's kingdom.

This table reminds us of Jesus' words - You give them something to eat. It seemed an impossible task then. 4,000 men and their families, out in the countryside - meal time!

And not a McDonald's in sight – no meal deal to be had. And Jesus said – You – give them something to eat.

6 Billion + human beings – and 2/3's of them we hear go to bed hungry. And maybe as many as 1/3 of children in America also go to bed hungry. And – because we are Christ's disciples the challenge is ours, too, to give them something to eat. And the disciples did - and we can, too. And it can make all the difference if we do.

It sounded as if there would not be enough - 5 loaves and 2 fish. But there was enough – and more. There was a sharing beyond belief - Such a meal deal.

But does it work, really work, in the real world – not here – but out there?

Yes! Jesus knew, Jesus knows, we know – when the will to share is there, when we live out the symbolism of this table - receiving the gifts of food and drink from God, and sharing these gifts with others - we are all fed.

With food for our bodies - some. And the more – food for our souls, the deep and abiding truth of God's love and care for us.

And this meal is our guide – it has led us to care for and seek to help feed the hungry - in our community, in Pontiac – thanks to those who went last month, and at Fort Street every month, and to those who come here – fed by our Deacon's fund.

It is the spirit of Building to Share - that out of our abundance we do share - so that others may hear and experience – here and in Africa - too - the great good news of God's great love for us.

This is the real meal deal. Don't miss it. For when we do this in remembrance of Jesus Christ, when we come each one to be served and to serve one another, we practice the life of faith and service and caring sharing love that God has made known to us in Christ, as the way, and the truth and the life ...

That is good for us now - and forever. Come – Share. Amen.

David W. Robertson, Pastor