

## **The Sermon - In 10 Sentences Or Less**

### Surprise the World! (Week 4) - The Son of Man Came Eating and Drinking:



1. This week we covered the 2nd of 5 outward, personal habits - eating with others (the "E" in the acronym "BELLS").
2. We came at this habit by asking two questions, the first of which was, "Why was eating with others so impactful in the ministry of Jesus and the 1st church?"
3. Reason #1 was that they didn't merely preach to people, but also spent time with people, who then, in a kind of domino effect, invited others to come and join in (see Matt. 9.9-13 and John 4.27-42).
4. This is especially imperative for the American church right now, which has tended to prioritize an "attractional" church model over and against a more "relational" model, the result of which has been its precipitous decline.
5. Reason #2 was that they bravely crossed cultural norms and expectations: they intentionally leveled the playing field and didn't play by social hierarchies, and they sought out and embraced the overlooked and outcast.
6. Reason #3 was that eating together resolved a universal human ailment, as real today as 2000 years ago - loneliness.
7. At any given time, around 60% of all American adults are significantly lonely, which, among other things, increases the mortality risk by 26% (or the same as obesity and some substance abuse) and has the same physical consequences as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.
8. The second question we asked of eating together is, "Are we really only talking about eating?"
9. The answer would seem to be probably not - a) we can share other necessary tasks in life with others, instead of doing them alone (like grocery shopping or walking or play dates at the park for our kids), and b) we ought to set aside and protect several times a week when our sole priority is to connect with others relationally.

## **Quotes to Remember**

“Jesus lived in a way that was continuously aware of the sacred around him, and he had the extraordinary capacity to see the person and greet the divine in the other... The key... was His ability to notice the humanity of others, especially the most invisible and neglected in His day... Jesus had little regard for the formal title and position – or lack thereof – of those he encountered... Jesus noticed people in a different way... and displayed an audacious inclination to ignore all such parameters.” (John Paul Lederach, in his book Reconcile)

“The greatest disease in the West today is not tuberculosis or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love... It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved.” (the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

## **Eating With Others Resource**

Some ideas from the SOMA network of missional churches about how to eat with others more regularly. Several of these would not be hard to do at KW, if, at book's end, we wanted to pursue them together: [5 Practical Ideas To Use Your Meals To Be Missional](#)

## **Blessing Others Stories**

On Sunday, 6/27, we gave away eight \$50 prepaid Visa cards at the end of the worship service with the sole instruction to go and bless someone with it. Here are just five of the stories that made their way back to me (Pastor Chris) of how they were used:

- 1) One person thought to call York County Social Services, and ask them to bless a client family with it. Through several phone calls and over at least a day and a half, they finally made that connection (talk about persistence!). And then his wife said, "Let's double it," making the blessing to this family \$100.
- 2) Someone else gave it to a person struggling with cancer, someone with whom they've developed a supportive, caring relationship over the last year.
- 3) Two KWers partnered together and delivered flowers to not one, but two, congregants who have recently lost loved ones.
- 4) Another person bought 4 dozen 4th of July cupcakes and gave them to the workers down at the Goodwill Store on Hwy. 17, and then used the rest to buy underwear for the homeless.
- 5) Last, someone hung out at a grocery store in their neighborhood and asked God to let them know who to give it to. They gave it to a Hispanic family, who, despite the language barrier, were very grateful.