

Evening Sermon Outline – September 1, 2019

“The Great Invitation” Psalm 34:8

⁸ **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8**

I. An invitation to taste, and see and know the LORD, that He is good; as He might be known through the Scripture –

³ **So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3**

1. Deuteronomy 8:3, along with Matthew 4:4, and 1st Peter 2:2, let us know that Scripture, God’s Word is food –

A. Food that we NEED for life –

⁴ **But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4**

B. Food we need for growth –

² **as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 1 Peter 2:2**

C. Food that is good, which demonstrates to us the LORD’s goodness and grace –

³ **if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 1 Peter 2:3**

2. Even ordinary taste buds are wonderful gifts of God –

We have about 8,000 taste buds, which wear out and are replaced about every two weeks throughout life. As we age, some taste buds are not replaced, and our taste becomes less sensitive. This is why many people prefer more salt and pepper on their food as they get older. Dr. David Menton

Tasting morsels of food is more complicated than simply letting them touch the outside of your taste buds. The food must pass through a

small hole (the taste pore) to reach a spherical cluster of about 100 taste receptor cells inside the taste bud. For our taste buds to work, saliva (produced by our salivary glands) must at least partially dissolve the food. Inside the taste bud, the dissolved food comes into contact with tiny hair-like structures on the taste receptor cells. These cells respond to four basic flavors: salty, sweet, sour and bitter. The taste receptor cells send these basic flavor signals to the brain by way of special cranial nerves. In the brain they are combined with odor signals coming from the nose. Together they produce all the subtle flavors we are able to perceive. Dr. David Menton

3. Yet in addition to wonderful taste buds God has bless us with a wonderful variety of foods –

Erica’s cake, Zenora’s noodles, Mine or my mother’s chili, spaghetti or pizza! Dr. Gross BBQ ribs, Old World Restaurant’s Stromboli Omelet, Columbia Restaurant’s Babe Ruth steak, Donato’s bread, Omaha Steak’s Gourmet Jumbo Franks ...

“God created an infinite diversity of food for us to explore in infinite combinations. It’s a measure of His great love and goodness that He provides such lavish delight in something so basic to life.” John Upchurch

A. God has given us all of these things to enjoy –

¹⁰ **Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10**

B. Yet God’s tells us how to enjoy these things –

³¹ **Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31**

4. Yet, God’s Word is wonderful FOOD in and of itself, spiritual, life giving food –

A. To Jeremiah they were rejoicing-the-heart food –

¹⁶ **Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16**

B. To David they were sweeter than honey –

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Psalm 19:10**

II. *An invitation to taste, and see, and know the LORD, that He is good; as He is known in Christ –*

²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” John 6:26-27

1. *Jesus is the Bread of Life, superior to every other kind of bread –*

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:35

A. *Jesus’ is superior because He ultimately ends all hunger and thirst –*

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water (From Jacob’s well) will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13-14

B. *Jesus’ sweet and healthful provision for us, is the result of His sacrifice for us –*

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” John 6:48-51

C. *Jesus’ food is food indeed, even in a way physical food is not –*

⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. John 6:55

2. *When Jesus speaks of His flesh as food, of course He is referring to spiritual food –*

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life. John 6:63

¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

III. *How do we respond to such a sweet invitation?*

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good... Psalm 34:8 A

1. *Set your mind / affections on such things –*

³ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4

2. *Seek such things FIRST, knowing God will provide the other things to you –*

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33

See this in context –

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Matthew 6:31-32

A. *In these verses “Gentiles” = non-believers*

B. *Their hearts seek first: food, drink, clothing ...*

C. *Seeking first God’s Kingdom means making it first PRIORITY –*

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13

Priority means we give God: time, affection / love, energy, labor, zeal!

We also trust Him, knowing is promise, His provision, what He gives us is best –

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8

Arnold Brevick