

Questions for thought:

- What does the passage say about God?
- What does this passage say about human beings?
- What does this passage say about creation, the environment?
- What does this passage say about the relationship between creation, God, and humanity and how they connect at the "table?"

Monday August 21st

Acts 21:25. Not all food practices are okay in the Bible. Here as Gentiles are converting from a sex-based religious food consumption, the early disciples are drawing a line to teach them that life will no longer be a choice for them. In Christ there are new beginnings through grace but with the expectation of transformation to a new life.

Tuesday August 22nd

Leviticus 10:17. We have looked at this before concerning the gift the priests have concerning offering food. This passage teaches us that the priest actually consumed the sacrifice of the people as a means to consume the sin and offer forgiveness.

Wednesday August 23rd

Romans 14:21. There are things that are okay in moderation but any consumption that is done in the presence of someone who struggles with that thing is wrong. Alcohol is the big example. Paul challenges us to rethink our behavior when we are gathered in community.

Thursday August 24th

1 Timothy 4:3-5. It is important that we remember when we draw lines of what to enjoy in life that we do not prohibit all the joy. It is important to live in holiness, but we cannot police each choice for others and fail to celebrate blessings from God.

Friday August 25th

Psalms 23:5. In ancient Israel it was forbidden to eat with enemies. If someone was invited to the table, they were no longer considered an enemy. If you are gathered with your enemies at the table, what is God expecting of you?

Saturday August 26th

Proverbs 23:1-2. If the king invites you to dinner, don't be a glutton. Does this apply today? If you know someone is treating you to a nice supper, do you order the most expensive item on purpose? What message does that share with your host?

Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Family & Friends: Linda Hicks, Suzi (Mary Jo Ensch's daughter), Michele Matusiak (Jill Hagan's sister), Mary Hicks, Maple Hill UMC, Sandy Grubb, Angela Bryan (Dawn McCarty's sister), Mark Thompson (Barbara's brother), Rex Townsend, Stan Ensch, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Sympathies: Dorothy Riley (Kathleen Brown's mother), Lucille Dunham (Linda Stephenson's mother)

College Students: Noel Wolfe, Emily Crowel, Adam Zietlow, Emily Zietlow, Alexandria Meyer

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Jeanne Carman, Ginny Compton, Clara Ford, Carolyn Loos

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS & REFLECTIONS

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