

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 September 4<sup>th</sup>**

*2 Samuel 17:29.* A couple of weeks ago we talked about curds that were like yogurt. Another way to understand them is simply "butter." Butter was a rich person's addition to a meal. What would the ancient Israelites say to the many varieties of butter that we have, the real and the fake? While a variety is good, is it really necessary for our well-being to have so many choices? How do we live more simply, not just with butter choices, but for all our food choices?

#### **Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Proverbs 21:17.* The warning does not include those who enjoy, but those who "love." When we place our pleasure at such a high priority, we sacrifice greater things. Proverbs is warning us to limit our enjoyment to simply enjoying things but not "loving" them. We should save love to family and friends, and most importantly, God.

#### **Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Luke 24:29-30.* Jesus is inside the home and does the normal table blessing, but in that moment he is transformed from a stranger offered hospitality to the risen Lord offering a blessing. After they welcomed him, once they gave shelter and food for simply the reason that they chose to protect the stranger, Christ himself was there. What does that teach us about welcoming others and sharing our table?

#### **Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Proverbs 15:7.* Remember the movie "Chocolat?" Where the woman making the chocolate can pour her emotions into the food as she prepares it? Proverbs is reminding us that the situation where you are eating can make even the most choice food taste horrible. It's better to eat simply food with people who are good and loving than to eat expensive food with people who are not.

#### **Friday September 8<sup>th</sup>**

*John 2:10.* When Jesus turned the water into wine, he turned it into good wine. If he didn't want them to enjoy it, the wine he made would have been bitter or sour and he would have said, "Haha, you shouldn't have wine because it is bad." For the past few weeks we have heard that wine can be bad or it's our attitude or when we are around those who struggle with it, but in and of itself, it isn't bad. Jesus said so.

#### **Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Numbers 11:32.* A wind threw an entire flock of quail to the ground and there were so many, the least one man gathered was 10. Since it was the wind that killed the birds they were kosher. How excited would they have been to gather the birds for a great feast? The abundance of food was a very limited situation. Very rarely did average people eat until they were full. They gathered for meals to distribute the food that they had and to enjoy the family and friends around the table and to simply receive nourishment.

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:** Cliff Lathrop, Bill Claridge (Barb McCormick's brother), Michele Matusiak (Jill Hagan's sister), Jeff Eschowsky (friend of AUMC), Maple Hill UMC, Mark Thompson (Barbara's brother), Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

**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

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### **OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS & REFLECTIONS**