

GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER? (John 12:1-8)

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GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

- Any dinner party has a variety of guests with a variety of backgrounds.
- This dinner held after the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead had a variety of people involved.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. (John 12:1)

- These people will teach us many lessons.



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

○ MARTHA, WHO SERVED

- SHE WAS FAITHFUL (John 12:2)

Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor.

Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. (John 12:2)

- Martha was very happy to “serve”.
- She had witnessed Jesus’ testimony that He came “not to be served” but to “serve” and to give His life as a ransom for many.



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

○ MARTHA, WHO SERVED

- SHE WAS FAITHFUL (John 12:2)

- A servant's heart shows the heart of Jesus.
- Martha had a servant's heart and she was "faithful".
- But we must always remember not to get "so busy" serving that we don't take time to sit with Jesus at His feet!!



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

- LAZARUS, WHO SAT

- HE HAD FELLOWSHIP (John 12:2)

Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor.

Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. (John 12:2)

- Lazarus had been brought back from death.
- He had tasted death and Jesus had “resurrected him”. Jesus had said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life.”



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

○ LAZARUS, WHO SAT

- HE HAD FELLOWSHIP (John 12:2)

- Lazarus was resting in the presence of Jesus and enjoying his Savior – the One who had saved him from death.
- Do we take time to “recline at the table with him” like Lazarus did – enjoying our Savior who has set us free from sin and death?
- Let’s take time to “fellowship with Jesus”.



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

- **MARY, WHO SHARED**
- SHE WAS FERVENT (IN HER DEVOTION)
(John 12:3)

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (John 12:3)

- **Mary had been saved from a terrible life of sin. Those who have been forgiven much usually end up being the most devoted. Mary had been forgiven much.**



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

- **MARY, WHO SHARED**
- SHE WAS FERVENT (IN HER DEVOTION)
(John 12:3)
- **Mary showed her devotion by bringing something very dear to her and “laying everything” at the feet of Jesus.**
- **Then she displayed her devotion to Him by ministering to Him. She ministered to Him the “sweetness” of her heart and soul by pouring out not only the perfume to Jesus but “her life”.**



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

- JUDAS WHO STOLE

- HE WAS A FAKE (John 12:4-6)

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages" He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. (John 12:4-6)



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

○ JUDAS WHO STOLE

- HE WAS A FAKE (John 12:4-6)

- Judas said the words of a person who really couldn't see the heart of Mary and her love for Jesus.
- Judas tried to “look and appear” righteous but it was not the righteousness of God but the righteousness of man.
- Only God's righteousness pleases God. We are called to allow Christ to live “HIS” righteousness through us!!



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

- JESUS, WHO SAVED

- HE IS FANTASTIC! (John 12:7-8)

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." (John 12:7-8)



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

○ **JESUS, WHO SAVED**

- **HE IS FANTASTIC! (John 12:7-8)**

- **What Jesus saw was not only the “present” act but the “future”. Jesus always looked past the present to see the future when he would go to the cross, die, and rise from the dead. That was His true mission!!**
- **There is a “time” and a “season” for everything (Ecclesiastes 3). This was the “time” for Jesus!!!**



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

Let's Conclude:

- Mary understood that Jesus was going to die.
- She anointed Him in anticipation of what was going to happen.
- Jesus went to the cross to die for our sins.
- Faith in Him brings eternal life.....

His Lifethe Life of God!!



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER? (JOHN 3:16-17)

- Let's study John 3:16-17 now:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER? (JOHN 3:16-17)

"For God so loved the world

- **It is an amazing thing that God loved the world.**
- **That means even though His perfect creation had been tainted and was full of sin, God loved it.**



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER? (JOHN 3:16-17)

that he gave

- God “gave”. God “has given” and God “will continue to give”. He is the **GREATEST GIVER.**

his one and only Son,

- God gave the **PERFECT GIFT – His Son.....THE ALTOGETHER PERFECT SON**



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER? (JOHN 3:16-17)

that whoever believes in him

- **The GIFT is for everyone is to “receive”.**
- **ARE YOU A “RECEIVER” of the Greatest Gift ever?**

shall not perish but have eternal life.

- **God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is eternal life and the true God.**



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,

- **We deserved condemnation but God did not condemn us. Instead He put the sin of the world upon His Son, Jesus.**

but to save the world through him.”

- **What an amazing thing that Jesus would save the world from sin. He saved those who didn't want Him, who crucified Him (all of us), and who deserve anything but forgiveness.**



GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER? (JOHN 3:16-17)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)



TABLE

- Now, I want to take some time and look at a few verses from God's Word regarding TABLE.
- When a person gets invited to a dinner, they always sit around a TABLE.
- We see that, God prepares a table for us.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

(Psalm 23:5)



TABLE

- We also see the promise in the Psalms about our family.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. (Psalm 128:3)

- We also see that Jesus is at the table and we like Mary, give our very best “perfume” and it spreads the fragrance “remembering” His death for us!!

While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance. (Song of Songs 1:12)



TABLE

- Here we see what a “human king” did. But Jesus provided food from HIS TABLE for the disciples who were trained for “three years” and then they went into the TRUE KING’S SERVICE.

The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. (Daniel 1:5)



TABLE

- We now see that Jesus during the Passover Feast, Jesus was with the “twelve” (a picture of the church) just as He was with the Israelites and delivered them from the Angel of Death at the Passover!!

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. (Matthew 26:20)



TABLE

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: (Luke 14:7)

- Jesus was always aware of the situation around Him. He noticed the people's deceitful hearts looking for "recognition from men" by sitting in places of honor. But Jesus didn't trust men's heart for He knew what was in the heart of man.



TABLE

But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. (Luke 22:21)

- Here we see that Jesus loved Judas and was even willing to dine with His enemy.**

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:27)

- Jesus reminds us that He came “not to be served” but “to serve”.**



TABLE

so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:30)

- **But the TRUE TABLE that we look forward to is coming as He spoke to His disciples.**

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. (Luke 24:30)

- **Here now is a beautiful picture of the table where Jesus would demonstrate HIS DEATH by allowing His BODY “to be broken” and “given for all of us” on the cross!!!**



TABLE

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. (Acts 6:2)

- Here we see that the **MINISTRY OF GOD'S WORD** was the calling of these men. Yes, we must serve but we **MUST SERVE** "how and as" we are called.



TABLE

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. (1 Corinthians 10:21)

- o Let's sit at the LORD'S TABLE and not fellowship with demons. We can choose "demons and death" or "Christ and life" LET'S CHOOSE LIFE!!!!**



TABLE

Let's Pray:

