

EATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Picture with me a long, wide table. Countless golden and silver candle holders, their candles lit, flames flickering and dancing gaily give the table a festive look. The table is set with crystal goblets; sparkling in multicolor as the candlelight flickers across them. The myriad plates and bowls etched in gold and silver and adorned with breathtaking jewels are laid out in an array of splendor as far as the eyes can see; a table fit for a King, and his guests. It is the Lord's Table.

And if you listen closely, you can hear melodious words softly inviting you to come; *Come and dine the Master calls, come and dine. You can feast at Jesus' table all the time. He who fed the multitudes, turned the water into wine, come and dine the Master calls, come and dine.*

The table is not laden with human food, BUT it is filled with the spiritual food of our Heavenly Father. There are plates piled high with the *meat*; of His word, powerful and strong, yet sweet to the taste. Psalm 119:103 says, *How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!* And Psalm 34:8 says, *oh taste and see that the Lord is good: Blessed is the man who trusts in him.*

There are bowls filled to overflowing with the nine fruit of the Spirit. *Joy, Peace, and Love* are together in the middle of the table. The bowls of *Kindness, Goodness and Faithfulness* are toward the end and are next to the bowls of *Gentleness and Self-Control*. Would you look at the size of those ladles; they'll fill our plates quickly.

The plates of *Hope, Strength, and Encouragement* on one side of the table and on the other side are plates of *Forgiveness, Mercy and Grace*. There are also side dishes of *Confidence, Assurance and Boldness*. Oh, wow, would you look at those gigantic bowls of *Rest and Peace*. What a spread!! All that is needed for a believer's spiritual growth is available at the Lord's Table, and his table is open to his children 24/7. It is never empty; and it's an all you can" *eat and drink*" offer.

Some of the crystal goblets are filled with the *pure milk of the word* for those newborn babies and other goblets were filled with the *living waters* of God. Jesus said in John 6:35, *He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

The Lord's Table is available to every believer, but let's do a reality check; the reality of truth. As a believer, your personal relationship with Jesus should take first priority in your life. But so often and for various reasons, the daily, quiet time with God may be the first thing to be put on the "back burner." We find ourselves under too much pressure, and stress is beating down our front door and then our busy schedules looms large and dark and our daily time with God dissolves before our very eyes.

I found myself in situations that required me to *pray as I go*, and that should not be *the norm for any believer*. I needed to learn to say NO! to the world and get off the merry-go-round! I fooled myself into thinking, *Hey, I'm okay. I'm talking to God*, but then I found myself wondering why my life was upside down in some areas or why I hit those dry spells far too often and then I question why I'm not hearing the Lord much lately.

Sharing this with a dear pastor friend one day, he sat and listened to me complain, then finally putting up his hand signaling for me to stop talking, he said only seven words. *Are you eating at the Lord's Table?* Then he went on to say, *Katie, we need to come into the presence of God on a daily basis. How can we hope to know His heart and receive His instructions for our lives unless we give Him our undivided attention and ample opportunity to speak to our heart?* I took his words to heart and make some changes; "business first" is to have my spirit happy in the Lord. I purposed to nourish my inner man (woman) day by day

Without going to the Lord's Table daily, we can easily *cop an attitude*. Then the accuser comes and will direct the accusations against our heart's motives, our sins and our weaknesses, and the times we didn't obey God. All of us believers hear this nagging little voice and we are either dining at the Lord's Table and are in a place of overcoming victory or we are in a slump and are not putting much of a dent in the kingdom of darkness.

Fear and depression are nagging culprits if we *slack off* and do not dine daily with the Lord. Fear steals your aliveness—but Courage is a dish on the Lord Table; fill up! Contentment is a dish that you will go back for again and again and the peace of God; delicious!

Prayer is food and drink for the soul. The result of this is that there is always a good deal of confession, thanksgiving, supplication, or intercession mingled in our daily prayer time with the Father. Eating at the Lord's Table fills us from the inside out. Remember, the inner man needs food and drink as much as the outward man does--see John 7:37-38

Simply put, when Jesus satisfies us, we will become channels of spiritual refreshments for others. We experience the overflowing fullness of the Spirit-filled life.

Don't give up or hide away. Be like Joshua and Caleb. Remember that the enemy is like a grasshopper in our sight and we were born to kill giants. We can sit down and eat without fear of our enemies for the Captain of the Host has prepared the banquet table. And His call to *come and dine* is an open-ended invitation. You don't have to call ahead and make a reservation.

Jesus says, JUST COME!