

Dinner with Jesus 4

A Meal for the Mission

Mark 1:35–39 (NKJV)

2026 Vision Theme: “Straining to Love: Sharing the Table of Christ”

Mission Slogan: “Every Chair Filled, Every Heart Engaged”

Introduction: Jesus models how our dining tables and fellowship times should be about more than our own comfort. *They can become launchpads for God’s mission* Meals should not just be for comfort, but for mission and purpose.

I. The priority of Prayer – Jesus withdraws to pray (v. 35)

A. Jesus rose early after a long day of ministry to spend time alone with the Father.

1. Prayer was not optional for Jesus—it was essential power for His mission.
2. Even in busyness, He made space for intimacy with God (Isaiah 50:4; Luke 5:15–16).

Martin Luther’s quote – “I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.”

B. Find your personal “wilderness” or quiet space with God.

1. Late hours and busy days did not keep Jesus from His appointed meeting with His Father early the next morning.
2. We Read Isa 50:4 for a prophetic description of God's righteous Servant as He meets the Father morning by morning. *What an example for us to follow!*
3. It is no surprise that Jesus had such authority and power when His prayer life was so disciplined (see Mark 9:28-29; 6:46; 14:32-38).

Our work for God must flow from our walk with God. If Jesus’ “secret” was prayer, ours must be too.

II. The pressures of popularity – The disciples’ expectations (vv. 36–37)

A. Peter and the disciples “hunted down” Jesus, urging Him to return to the crowds.

1. They saw opportunity for fame and success in Capernaum; Jesus saw distraction.
2. In Peter’s mind, success meant staying where the crowds are large and the applause is loud. (He didn’t understand the shallowness of the crowd).
3. The crowd wanted miracles, not necessarily the Messiah.

B. Popularity, comfort, and even well-meaning people can distract us from God's greater calling.

Jesus saw beyond one town; He was always thinking of the “elsewhere.”

III. The purpose of preaching – Jesus’ focus on mission (vv. 38–39)

A. Jesus refuses to stay where He is popular and instead says, “Let us go...”

1. His mission was to proclaim the good news to all towns, not just the familiar ones (Luke 4:43; John 4:34).
2. Jesus' hunger was for God's will, not man’s applause.
3. He moved outward from comfort to calling.

B. Let your dining table be a launchpad, not a lounge chair.

Conclusion & Challenge:

- Are your meals and hospitality for your own comfort—or for gospel purpose?
- Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9 – Hospitality is a vital part of living out our faith.
- Start with one meal for the mission: invite, listen, love, and share.
- Let every chair be filled, every heart engaged—at both your table and in the Kingdom.