

CHRISTMAS SUPPER

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

Introduction:

1. The Christmas Guest
2. This poem illustrates the principle of Jesus' teaching Matthew 25.
3. To serve the Lord, one must serve his neighbor. By serving one's fellowman he also serves the Lord.
4. However, one should also consider the principle of preparing one's house to receive Jesus as a guest.
5. Dining together involves hospitality and fellowship (cf. Luke 15:2, 28-30).
6. Imagine having God as your dinner guest...

- I. The Hospitality of Abraham (Genesis 18:1-8)
 - A. Abraham saw three men who were strangers to him, but he ran to show them hospitality.
 - B. This included providing a meal for them and dining with them.
 - C. Abraham soon learned that one of his guests was the Lord (18:14, 17-19)!
 - D. His preparation and service were appropriate, for the Lord deserves the best that man can offer.

- II. The Hospitality of Jesus (Matthew 26; John 13)
 - A. Jesus invites all men to dine at His table (Matthew 22).
 - B. Jesus prepared the meal – at great cost to Himself (Matthew 26:26-28).
 1. The bread is His body, offered as a sacrifice for sin.
 2. The fruit of the vine is His blood, given for sin.
 - C. Jesus joins in the meal in fellowship and communion (Matthew 26:29).
 - D. Jesus cleanses man's sin – making fellowship possible (John 13).

Conclusion

1. Never take for granted what God has made possible through Christ.
2. We can be a part of His family and dine at His table.

The Christmas Guest

...excerpt...

It happened one day near December's end
Two neighbors called on an old time friend
And they found his shop so meager and mean
Made gay with a thousand bows of green
And Conrad was sittin' with face ashined
When he suddenly stopped as he stiched a twine
And he said "Oh friends at dawn today
When the cock was crowin' the night away
The Lord appeared in a dream to me
And said 'I'm comin' your guest to be.'
So I've been busy with feet astir
And strewin' my shop with branches of fir
The table is spread and the kettle is shined
And over the rafters the holly is twined
And Now I'll wait for my Lord to appear
And listen closely so I will hear His step
As He nears my humble place
And I'll open the door and look on His face"