

PRAYER UPDATE

PHYSICAL ILLNESSES & SURGERIES this past week

Ethan Pope (8 yrs old) - continues to fight leukemia after 2 1/2 years. Ethan is back at LPCH for a 29 day re-induction chemotherapy. Pray that he is back in remission on 4/27. Pray for Ethan and the whole family to have the patience and grace needed as they share a room with another family.

Heidi Garwood, Monty Stone, Sharon Ymata, Kathleen Stuart - Findlay, Mariah Johnson, Bill Gilbert and Ron Asadoor- at Dominican Hospital this past week. Pray for their recovery.

William Egbert - had hernia repair surgery at Dominican on 4/19. Pray for a complete recovery

Coline Weeks - had knee replacement surgery at Sutter Hospital on 4/22. Pray for peace and an uncomplicated recovery.

Tom Carr, Nancy Shipley, Sue Doxater - on Hospice Care. Pray for God's peace and comfort.

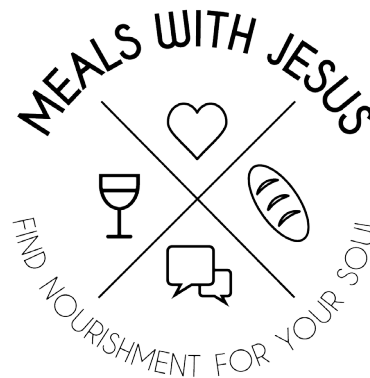
1st Lieutenant Ryan Evans - continue to pray for Ryan's recovery as he gains strength after an intense battle with complications from pancreatitis.

HOME WITH THE LORD

Rob Trumbull - We will be celebrating the life of Rob, this Sunday, April 24th at 1:30 pm here at TLC with a reception following in Monschke Hall. Pray for his family during this difficult time of loss.

If you would like to minister to a shut-in with a regular visit, or if you'd like us to visit your loved ones in the hospital, contact Carrie Clark 465-3368 | care@tlc.org

A complete prayer list is available at the Info Desk.



OPEN TABLE

LUKE 5:27-35

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

APRIL 23 & 24

THE MEALS OF JESUS IN LUKE:

- LUKE 5:** Jesus feasts with Levi and other "sinners"
- LUKE 7:** Jesus is anointed by a "sinner" at a Pharisee's house
- LUKE 9:** Jesus feeds the five thousand
- LUKE 10:** Jesus eats at home of Mary and Martha
- LUKE 11:** Jesus condemns the Pharisees at dinner
- LUKE 14:** Jesus discusses who to invite to a party
- LUKE 19:** Jesus invites himself to dinner at Zaccheus' house
- LUKE 22:** Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples
- LUKE 24:** Jesus has dinner in Emmaus
- LUKE 24:** Jesus cooks fish and toast for disciples on lakeshore

"In Luke's gospel, Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal." - Robert Karris

"**The Son of Man has come eating and drinking**, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" Luke 7:34

"I give you... a kingdom, **that you may eat and drink at my table** in the kingdom." Luke 22:29,30

Jesus did not go around merely talking about eating and drinking; he went around eating and drinking. A lot." - Peter Leithart



THREE IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS IN THIS FIRST MEAL:

1. Jesus _____ people others despise

After this, Jesus went out and **saw a tax collector** by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:27-28 NIV

Tax collectors:

2. Jesus _____ people others ostracize

Then Levi held a **great banquet** for Jesus at his house, and a **large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them**. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “**Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?**” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:29-31 (See Luke 5:12-14)

(Jesus) “**But go and learn** what this means: ‘**I desire mercy, not sacrifice.**’” Matthew 9:13

3. Jesus _____ people others judge

They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.” Jesus answered, “Can you make **the friends of the bridegroom** fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.” Luke 5:33-35

If I am a follower of Jesus,

1. _____
2. _____

Resources and Acknowledgements:

Tim Chester, “Meals With Jesus” (Crossway Books)

Tim Keller, “Jesus’ Meal with Matthew”, sermon at Redeemer Presbyterian Church

John MacArthur, “Jesus Came to Call and Save Sinners”, sermon at Grace Community Church

NT Wright, “Acts for Everyone” (Westminster John Knox Press)

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE: “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’” Matthew 9:13

DAILY MEDITATIONS Brief daily readings based on this weekend’s message:

MONDAY Read Luke 5:27-28. How does it make you feel to know Jesus noticed (and called) a man despised by society? Do you ever feel unworthy to be called by God? What does this teach you? *Thank you, God, that notice those others overlook. That means you see me. Help me not to focus on negative labels others put on me (or that I put on myself). Let me see myself through your loving eyes. Amen.*

TUESDAY Read Luke 5:29-32. The religious people thought they were better if they stayed away from all “contaminated” people. Do religious people today sometimes still believe this? In what way were they mistaken? *Thank you God that you came to find sinners, and not “righteous” people. I don’t want to be proud and self-righteous. Help me to realize I am contaminated by sin too, and need your healing. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY Read Levi’s own account of this event in Matthew 9:9-13 (Matthew is another name for Levi). He adds a detail: Jesus’ saying in verse 13. Jesus is contrasting his mercy toward the “sinners” with the Pharisees’ scrupulous religiosity. Which does he say God prefers? Can church activity tear you away from relationships with “sinners” who don’t attend church? How can you personally overcome this, and begin to be like Jesus in this way? *Lord, thank you for reaching out to me even when I sin. Help me to model your behavior by reaching out to “sinners” – even though I might get criticized by other religious people.*

THURSDAY Read Luke 5:12-14. Earlier in the same chapter, Jesus heals a leper. Here again he shows his healing power for the “unclean”. He could have healed the leper with mere mental assent. But he touches him. What do you think this shows about Jesus? *Thank you, God, that you do not just forgive from afar, but came to physically touch us and minister to us. And you touch us still. Touch me today with your love and power. Amen.*

FRIDAY In Matthew 9, Jesus is quoting from Hosea. Read Hosea 6:4-9 for the context. God is criticizing the Israelites because “bands of priests” are leading the nation astray. But they all think they’re ok, because they still offer the required sacrifices. Is it still possible for people to be very “religious” and yet far from God? How have you seen this—perhaps even in your own life? *God, please keep me from dead religion. Help me never to reduce my faith to mere ritual. Help me take risks of merciful acts toward “sinners”, because risky mercy is one way my faith stays vibrant.*

SATURDAY Please finish devotions you may have missed. Mediate on the memory verse. *Lord, thank you that you had mercy on me! Help me extend it to others. Please bless this weekend’s services. Amen.*