

INTRO: THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY



Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

(John 21 v 4)

You start every morning with your normal routine. Your alarm clock goes off and you face your first important decision of the day: to snooze or not to snooze. No matter how many times you hit it, you know you eventually have to brave the day. So, you finally roll out of bed on autopilot.

Shower. Dress. Coffee. Another day.

Life can feel mundane at times, can't it? But what if today was different? What if this morning you had a breakfast conversation that changed the direction of your life? It's happened for others before. Why not you? Why not now?

BACON WITH A SIDE OF GRACE

Imagine if you had the chance to meet a world-renowned leader you respect. Take your pick. Who would it be? What do you think they would tell you? Do you think it would have any impact on your day? Your life?

They say—whoever *they* are—that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. If that's true, then a bunch of us are in trouble. A lot of us tend to skip breakfast. Sometimes we skip other important stuff too. Maybe that's why life can sometimes feel a bit ordinary. Maybe we're missing something.

But what if that changed?

If you had your pick of leadership gurus to learn from over breakfast, you'd probably get up earlier than normal to head off to your restaurant of choice. I understand that if you're not a morning person, this might be a little hard to imagine. But try.

Just picture yourself backing out of your driveway to head to your favorite café, pub, or diner. It's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing. You turn left off Main Street into a faded asphalt parking lot. The yellow stripes are nearly gone, yet folks still manage to line up in rows.

As soon as you step out of your car, the smell of fresh bacon greets you and guides you across the parking lot. You pull open the glass door with a steel bar handle, clanging the "We're open" sign and ringing a rusty bell that's as old as the restaurant. The sound of busy

servers and a dozen conversations welcomes you inside. “Mornin’ sweetheart,” a middle-aged woman says, as she directs you to a booth and sets a laminate menu on the table in front of you. To go with the bacon, there are eggs any way you want them: scrambled, over-easy, sunny side up...

She quickly returns with utensils wrapped in a white napkin and a green coffee mug that’s branded with a yellow John Deere logo. Steam drifts upwards as she fills your cup from her stainless-steel decanter with a brown spout. No decaf for you. You want to be wide-awake for this.

But what if the person you’re meeting isn’t merely a successful entrepreneur or a talented leader but the Creator of the world? I know it might sound far-fetched, but it really isn’t. It’s happened before. In the last chapter of John’s Gospel we read that Jesus had breakfast with the disciple Peter before saying his final words and going back to heaven.

And, let’s be honest, Peter was an idiot. He had just blown it big time. He had flat out denied three times that he even knew who Jesus was. He struck out cold. But still, Jesus had breakfast with him. And it changed Peter’s life.

Like Peter, we can all be idiots at some time or another. I know I am. The good news is that Jesus makes time for idiots like us. And he’s still in the business of changing lives.

He can change yours. He can change mine. If life's a struggle at the moment, Jesus can change it for the better. And even if life's pretty good, I guarantee he can bring deeper satisfaction and greater joy than you could imagine. It can start this morning, even over breakfast.

A GALILEAN ACCENT

In the following chapters we're going to immerse ourselves in a conversation that Jesus had two thousand years ago on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where a group of silhouetted men, including Peter, sat around a fire at sunrise enjoying a morning meal. It's found in the last chapter of John's Gospel.

So, grab your Bible and a cup of coffee. Maybe you'll even want to read through this little book while you're sitting in your favorite breakfast spot—that would seem appropriate. But regardless of where you read this, or what chapter of life this finds you in, I pray that the Spirit of God would speak to you through the inspired words of Scripture.

Because whenever Jesus speaks, there is no telling what might happen. If you start your day with him, who knows where it might end. And maybe, just maybe—in the midst of all the voices in the coffee shop or breakfast joint—maybe you will hear a voice with a Galilean accent calling you to stop, and sit, and listen. And be changed.

JOHN 21 v 1-25

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

DAN DEWITT

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.