

the main points again...

What to do when things fall apart?

- Hiding away from the world - cf. John 20:19
- Wanting to be alone - cf. John 20:24
- Going for a walk with a friend

Bible study is not enough... 'Stay with us'...

Jesus' signature table manner:

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them

Takes...

Jesus takes whatever we bring to him- warts and all...
Jesus take me as I am?

Gives thanks / Blesses...

Jesus takes what we give him to God the Father
Jesus does not reject what we offer him nor does he say it is not enough
We are embraced by the life of God and included

Breaks

In order to be transformed God needs to get to our hearts...
No heart surgery without breaking open a body first
At the table, we're not permitted to remain self-enclosed. We're not permitted to remain self-sufficient
- Eugene Peterson, *Living the Resurrection*

Gives back

What we receive back from God is what we gave him made new, made fit for eternity

Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

- 1 Corinthians 15:43-44

Recognising

A table manner which is the pattern of his life, which speaks of Jesus, by which he is recognised truly

Incarnation = Takes

What Jesus offers to God and to us...
- John 1:14

Baptism = Blesses

God affirms the life that Jesus offers to him
- Mark 1:11

Crucifixion = Breaks

- Mark 14:22

Resurrection = Gives back

Jesus' resurrection body is for eternity
- John 20:19-20

A pattern by which Jesus is recognised in our living...

so what...

Talk about what you do when things seem to be falling apart. Do you hide under the duvet?

Read together Luke 24.13-24

Imagine yourself as Cleopas: what would you have been talking about on this walk? How would you have felt?

Read Luke 24.25-27

Why do you think Jesus' Bible study was not enough?

Read Luke 24.28-34 (especially noting verse 30)

Discuss slowly with prayer if you feel appropriate each of the fourfold table manners of Jesus...

Takes

What do you bring to Jesus?

What might you want to hold back from him?

Blesses

What does it mean that God blesses whatever you bring to him? That your two fish and five loaves are enough

What does it mean for your life to be taken to God the Father? To be included in him and his plans?

Breaks

Why does God need to break us to use us?

How do you feel about this?

In what way is our breaking different from Jesus'?

Gives back

How does Jesus give back what we give to him?

How are we resurrected people now?

Read Colossians 2.12, 3.1-3

Do you recognise Jesus in these table manners?

Will you let Jesus stay with you after this Bible study...

Sunday April 27th 2008



Signature Table Manners

Luke 24.13-35

Devoted to Christ, his people, his mission