



Jack of All Trades Feasting II

He who MAKES the Table
EATS with us...
AND is himself is the MAIN DISH

He makes the table - slowly, deliberately

Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. (Matt 13:55 NLT)



Could it be
that he who
made the
table,



also HOSTS the MEAL?

Then lays himself down upon it...
to be eaten?

Genesis 22:7 - Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Matthew 26:26 - While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

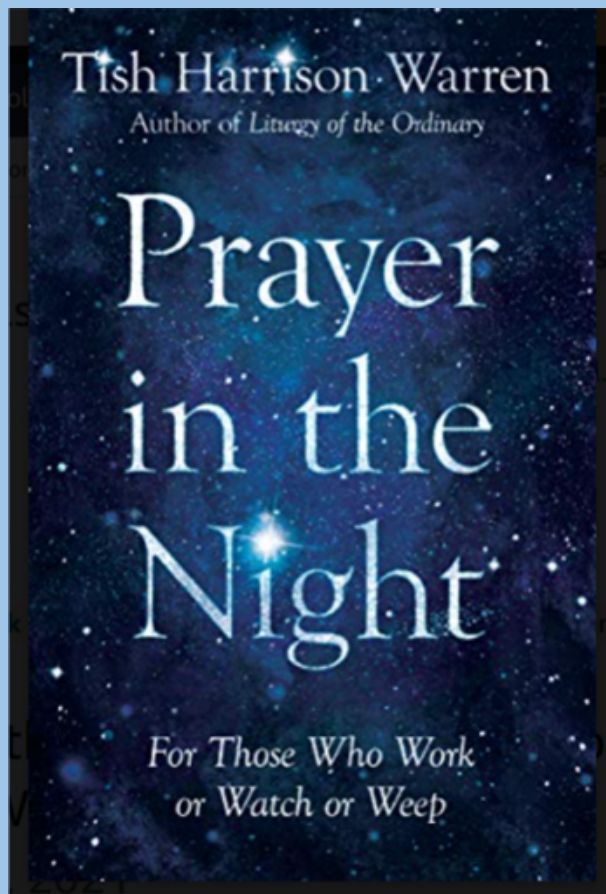


He Makes the Table

This insight came to me while refinishing our dining room table



Jesus' First Career



“Jesus also spent time - decades even - building stuff. Jesus was a tradesman. He is called a *tekton* (Mark 6:3) - a builder who used his hands. God came to earth and apparently thought it worth his while to take some wood or stone or metal and make something.

What did he make? We have no idea. Apparently nothing earth-shattering enough to have kept around. But in this dark world, where men and women were dying, where the poor were suffering, where injustice raged in a vast and violent empire, God became flesh and built some furniture... The light came into the darkness and did ordinary work.” (76)



Sometimes, we make the table

- It feels ordinary
- Mundane
- Not sure if it's deeply meaningful
- To anyone
- No one sees your hard work
- Will it be enduring?

Slowly and deliberately, make your table.

Abraham felt lacking in many ways...

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield,^[a] your very great reward.^[b]”

2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, **what can you give me since I remain childless** and the one who will inherit^[c] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “**You have given me no children**; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” **5** He took him outside and said, “**Look up at the sky and count the stars**—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “**So shall your offspring^[d] be.**”

6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

He doubted God... so God had to reassure him.

7 He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

8 But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, **how can I know** that I will gain possession of it?"

9 So the Lord said to him, "**Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.**"

10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. **11** Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. **13** Then the Lord said to him, “**Know for certain** that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. **14** But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. **15** You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. **16** In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, **a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram** and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi^[e] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— **19** the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, **20** Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, **21** Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”



God takes it upon HIMSELF to PROMISE to secure Abraham's future

- > **The covenant was instituted by God alone—a unilateral covenant.**
- > **The flaming torch**, like the pillar of fire, the lamp in the tabernacle, and the glory of God, *signified* the holy, awesome presence of the Lord moving among his people.
- > **The smoking furnace is *typology symbolizing* Egypt and the tribulation** through which the sons of Jacob and their seed had to pass.

Covenantal Action:
More simply put...

God Eats with His People

From Gen to *Revelation*: God wants to eat with YOU

Rev 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ...

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. **20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.**

21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."



Over time, God changes us

Abraham realizes whenever the Lord shows up, it's time to eat



Genesis 18 - The Three Visitors

**Marc Chagall - Abraham and the Three
Angels**

Abraham is SO EAGER to make a meal for the Lord

. 2 ...When he saw them, **he hurried** from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord,^[a] do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought...then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed ...<SO EAGER TO SERVE THE LORD>

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

6 So **Abraham hurried** into the tent to Sarah. "**Quick,**" he said, "get three seahs^[b] of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread." 7 Then **he ran** to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who **hurried** to prepare it... 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.



But the craziest thing of all...


God puts himself on the table --
to be consumed

Genesis 22:7 - Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"



Matthew 26:26 - While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."





Because the Sovereign Lord
helps me, I will not be
disgraced. Therefore have I set
my face like flint, and I know I
will not be put to shame.

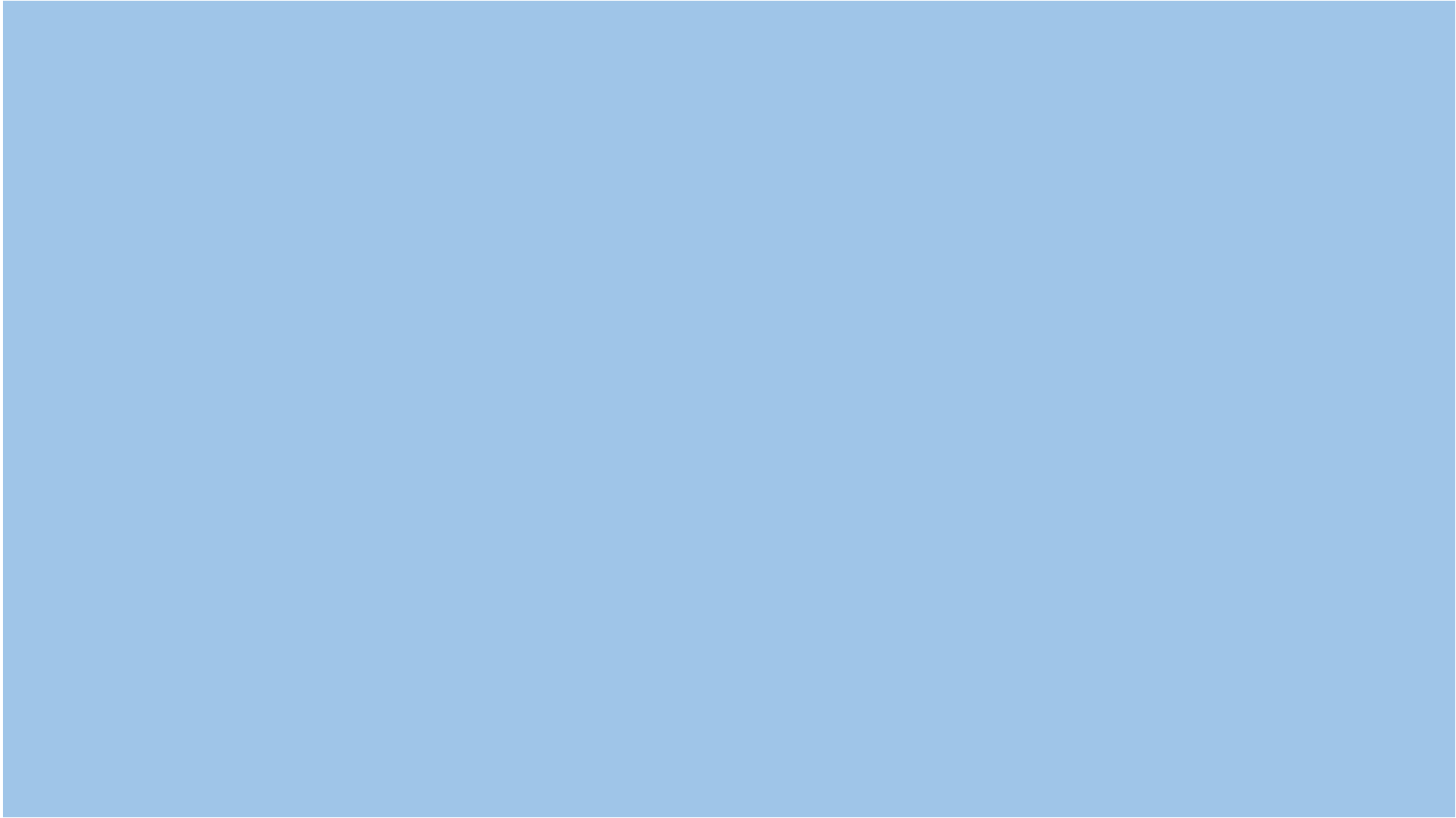
Isaiah

50:7

When the days drew near for
him to be taken up, he set his
face to go to Jerusalem.

Luke 9:51

YOU, Lord, YOU.



Could even *meal preparation* then
become an opportunity
to acknowledge the Lord?

Yes.

*Even when
done in
haste!*

Lord, I have little time
to build this meal,
but I would still make of it
a holy offering.

Let me work into these
rapid preparations a care
and a kindness for those
who will partake.

EVERY
moment
HOLY

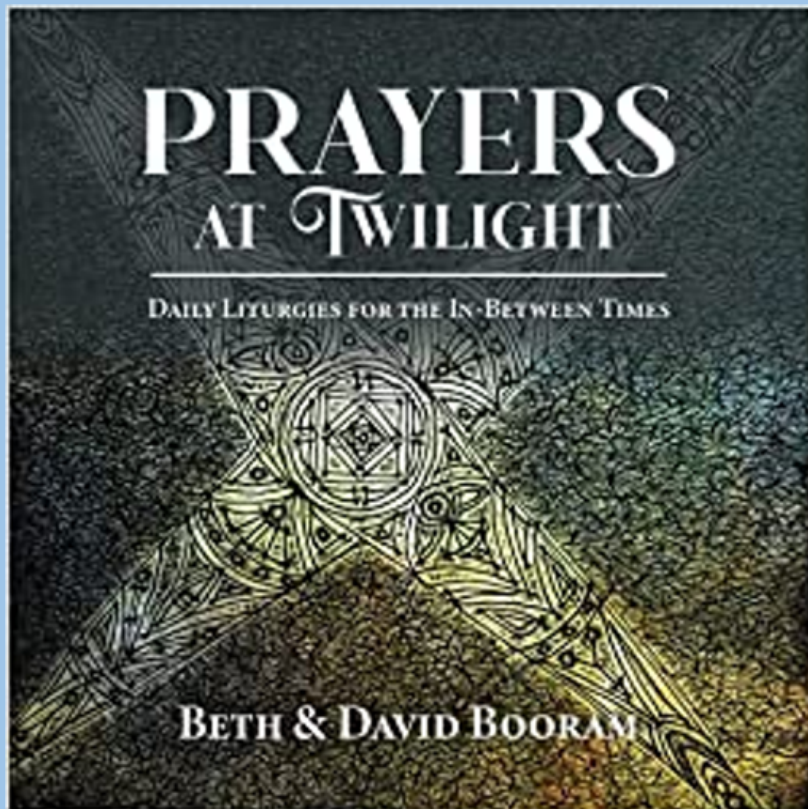
Even in our common haste,
may this meal serve as a
catalyst for a deeper grace,
reminding us to be ever thankful.
Let those who share this food
embrace the fellowship of the moment,
however fleeting,
and let them rise from the table
knowing that even in their
comings and their goings, they
are nurtured and loved.

A LITURGY FOR THE
Hurried
Preparation
of a Meal

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Grant also, O Lord, that we,
at other times in our busy lives,
might make ample margin for more
unhurried meals, and for a more
leisurely fellowship.

Amen.



We ask for the grace this day to **slow down** enough to talk with you; the presence **to listen** to whomever we find ourselves with, *especially those with whom we disagree.*

We ask for the courage to **show up** in the conversations of our day, to **share** our own most vulnerable thoughts and dreams.

Help us **set the table** for the most glorious of feasts-- the sharing of hearts around a circle of love. (38)

FEAST 2015



FEAST 2019



Reflection:

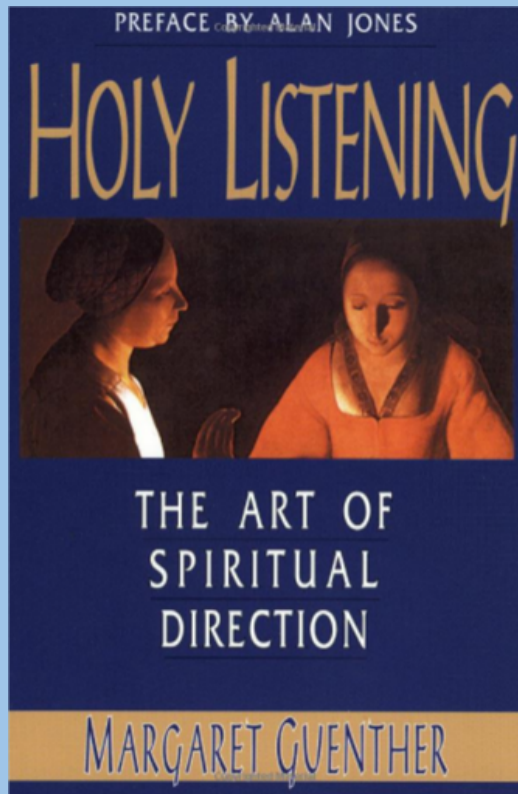
Whose hospitality conveys God's presence to you?

What is it about their hospitality that makes you feel welcome?

**Good words satisfy like a
fine meal;**

**Yes, good conversations
are sure to satisfy.**

Prov 18:20, The Voice



Jesus had a way of taking over at the dinner table.

So too in the ministry of spiritual direction--when all is said and done, the *Holy Spirit* is the true director...

if I am ready to relinquish my role to *the true Host*, the burden of responsibility drops away and the space I have prepared becomes gracious and holy. (39)

MAKE the TABLE



PREPARE the MEAT



HOST the MEAL





But let Jesus be the
Jack of all trades...

Master of all.



Do it *with Him*

Jesus was the carpenter's son,
Who took responsibility for the meal,
Then invites all to come and feast...
On Him

Let us each just do our simple part.