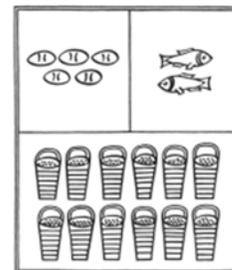


## Food and Drink in Luke's Gospel

There are so many meals and banquets in Luke, so much talk about food and drink, there's even a book called *Eating Your Way through Luke's Gospel!* (R. Karris, 2006)



### I) Jesus Participates in Meals in Luke's Gospel

- **5:29-32** – Levi hosts a banquet for Jesus; Pharisees complain that Jesus eats with tax collectors & sinners. (similar complaints in 15:2 and 19:7; see also Jesus' response in 7:33-35)
- **7:36-50** – Jesus eats at Simon the Pharisee's house; a sinful woman comes to anoint his feet.
- **9:10-17** – Jesus feeds a crowd of 5000 with five loaves and two fish; twelve baskets of leftover food.
- **11:37-52** – Jesus eats at the home of another Pharisee, who complains that Jesus didn't wash before the meal.
- **14:1-24** – Jesus eats at a leading Pharisee's house; there he heals a man & teaches with several parables.
- **22:1, 7-13** – Jesus tells two disciples on the Feast of Unleavened Bread to prepare for the Passover meal.
- **22:14-38** – **Last Supper:** Jesus & his disciples share a Passover meal, at which he talks of eating & drinking in God's Kingdom, institutes the Eucharist, foretells Judas' betrayal and Peter's denials, and teaches further.
- **24:30-35** – Risen Jesus "breaks bread" with two disciples at Emmaus; they return to Jerusalem and report to the other disciples that they recognized him "*in the breaking of the bread*" (cf. Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7-11).
- **24:41-43** – Risen Jesus eats some fish as he appears to his disciples in Jerusalem, to show he's not a ghost.

### II) People "Serve" or "Provide" for Jesus and His Disciples in Luke's Gospel

- **4:38-39** – After Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, she "*serves them*" (usually *diakonew* = serving food)
- **8:1-3** – [The twelve were with Jesus, and Mary Magdalene] "and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, *who provided for them* out of their resources."
- **10:38-42** – Jesus is welcomed in the home of Martha & Mary; Martha does "*much serving*" (*diakonia*)
- **19:5-7** – Jesus sees Zacchaeus; asks to "*stay at your house*" (hospitality implies sharing food & drink)
- **22:26-27** – Jesus tells his disciples at the Last Supper: "But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like *one who serves*.<sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the *one who is at the table* or the *one who serves*? Is it not the *one at the table*? But I am among you as *one who serves*."

### III) Parables and Major Teachings of Jesus Involving Food & Drink in Luke's Gospel

- **5:36-39** – **Garments & Wineskins:** "no one puts new wine into old wineskins..."
- **6:43-44** – **Trees with Good or Bad Fruit:** also, one can't pick figs from thorns or grapes from brambles.
- **8:5-8, 11-15** – **Sower & Seed;** also the Interpretation of the Parable of the Sower & Seed.
- **10:29-37** – **Good Samaritan:** uses "oil and wine" to treat the wounds of the one who had been robbed and beaten; then tells the innkeeper to "take care of him" (implicitly also providing food & drink).
- **11:3** – **Lord's Prayer:** "Give us each day our **daily bread**."
- **11:5-8** – **Friend Asking for Help at Midnight:** "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread."
- **12:16-21** – **Rich Fool:** "I will pull down my barns and build larger ones... relax, eat, drink, and be merry."
- **12:35-38** – **Faithful Servants:** Master returns from wedding banquet; then serves his faithful servants.
- **12:42-46** – **Faithful Manager:** gives allotment of food at proper times to other servants.
- **13:6-9** – **Barren Fig-Tree:** fruitless for three years; tend it one more year, to see if it will bear fruit.
- **13:18-19, 20-21** – **Mustard Seed & Leaven:** parables about the growth of God's Kingdom.
- **14:7-14** – **Places at Wedding Banquet Tables:** choose the lowest places, not the places of honor (cf. 20:46).
- **14:15-24** – **Great Supper:** "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" (cf. 13:29; 22:30). Those who were first invited refuse to come, but many others are then invited to the supper.
- **15:11-32** – **Lost/Prodigal Son:** has to feed pigs, but is himself hungry, with nothing to eat; remembers his father's house; after returning, his father kills the fatted calf and throws a big party!
- **16:1-8** – **Unjust Steward:** negotiates the bills of client who owe his master olive oil and wheat.
- **16:19-31** – **Rich Man & Lazarus:** Rich man feasts sumptuously, but ignores poor hungry beggar at his door.
- **17:7-10** – **Servant's Reward:** normally first prepare supper for the master; then eat later themselves.
- **20:9-18** – **Wicked Tenants:** refuse to give a share of the vineyard's produce to the owner.

#### IV) Hunger and Fasting in Luke's Gospel

- **1:53** – Mary's Magnificat: "he has *filled the hungry* with good things, and sent the rich away empty."
- **4:1-4** – Jesus fasts 40 days in the desert; <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to *become a loaf of bread.*" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, '*One does not live by bread alone.*'"
- **4:25** – "But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe *famine* over all the land;"
- **5:33-35** – "John's disciples... frequently *fast* and pray, but your disciples *eat* and *drink.*" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "You cannot make wedding guests *fast* while the bridegroom is with them, can you? <sup>35</sup>The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will *fast* in those days."
- **6:3-4** – Jesus recalls: when David and his companions were *hungry*, they ate "the **bread** of the Presence."
- **6:21, 25** – First of four Beatitudes & Woes: "Blessed are you who are *hungry* now, for you will be filled.... / "Woe to you who are **full** now, for you will be *hungry*...."
- **7:33-34** – "For John the Baptist has come *eating no bread* and *drinking no wine*, and you say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>34</sup>the Son of Man has come **eating** and **drinking**, and you say, 'Look, a **glutton** and a **drunkard**, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"
- **15: 17** – Prodigal Son thinks of his father's servants having **enough bread**, "but here I am *dying of hunger!*"
- **18:9-14** – Parable of Pharisee & Publican: Ph boasts about *fasting* twice a week, and tithing all his income.

#### V) Other Metaphorical Uses of Food & Drink in Luke's Gospel

- **3:8a, 9** – "**Bear fruits** worthy of repentance... / every tree therefore that does not bear **good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire."
- **9:27** – "...there are some standing here who will not **taste** death before they see the kingdom of God."
- **12:1** – Jesus warns his disciples: "Beware of the **yeast** of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy."
- **14:34** – "**Salt** is good; but if **salt** has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?"
- **17:6** – Apostles ask: "Increase our faith." Jesus replies: "If you had faith the size of a **mustard seed**, you could say to this **mulberry tree**, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."
- **22:31** – "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like **wheat.**"
- **22:42** – "Father, if you are willing, remove this **cup** from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

#### VI) Briefer References to Food & Drink in Luke's Gospel

- **2:7, 12, 16** – The newborn Jesus is laid "in a **manger**" (an animal feeding trough)
- **3:11** – John the Baptist tells the crowds: "Whoever has two coats must **share** with anyone who has none; and whoever has **food** must do likewise."
- **5:1-10** – Jesus calls Simon & other fishers as his first disciples, after a miraculous **catch of fish**.
- **6:1** – "One sabbath while Jesus was going through the **grainfields**, his disciples plucked some **heads of grain**, rubbed them in their hands, and **ate** them."
- **8:55** – After Jesus raises Jairus' daughter to life: "Then he directed them to **give her something to eat.**"
- **9:3** – "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, **nor bread**, nor money—not even an extra tunic."
- **10:7-8** – "Remain in the same house, **eating and drinking** whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid.... / Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, **eat** what is set before you;"
- **11:11-12** – "Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a **fish**, will give a snake instead of a **fish**? / Or if the child asks for an **egg**, will give a scorpion?"
- **12:22-29** – Jesus teaches his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will **eat**, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than **food**, and the body more than clothing... / <sup>29</sup>And do not keep striving for what you are to **eat** and what you are to **drink**, and do not keep worrying."
- **13:29** – "Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will **eat in the kingdom of God.**"
- **17:35** – "There will be two women **grinding meal** together; one will be taken and the other left."
- **22:30** – Jesus confers a kingdom on his faithful apostles, "so that you may **eat and drink at my table in my kingdom**, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- **23:36** – "The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him **sour wine**,"

For even more references, see <http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Luke-Food-Drink.html>

