

## Breakfast on the beach - May 10th Sermon

I wonder what struck you in that story - Jesus eating with his friends on the beach?

I wonder why Jesus wanted to eat with his friends?

Probably the same reason that you want to eat with yours. To be together, to share your day.

At this strange time, when we can't see our friends, at least we can eat with our families. For some of us its been lovely to do that - to share what gives us life - food, and to celebrate the life that we give each other.

I expect that's why Jesus wanted to eat with his friends at that breakfast on the beach.

Can you think of any other time Jesus ate with anyone? There are lots.

So eating together is really important, and because meals are so essential and central, often there all sorts of rules and rituals associated with them.

When you go to eat with the queen (my family were always telling me to improve my table manners because "the queen won't want you to put your elbows on the table" - still waiting for the invitation!)

.. but if you do eat with the queen - you can't start eating till she eats. and you have to stop when she stops! Imagine that!

When I was eating with people in a country called Pakistan, I had to learn to leave lots of food on my plate. In that place, men and women eat in separate rooms, the women get what's left over - so leave a lot on your plate!

In Jesus time there were lots of rules about who was allowed to eat with who, and who sat at the top of the table, and what you were allowed to eat. Eating meals was a way of showing who was rich or poor, and a way of some people showing off, and some people being pushed down.

Jesus changed all that.

At this meal on the beach - he's just cooked it - no celebrity chef, just Jesus doing the job that's needed.

Peter was called The Big Fisherman, so guess what he brought - fish!

In Jesus meals - everyone is equal, no one sits on a higher table, or in the place of honour, or gets served first.

And everyone brings what they have - fish, bread - remember that story of the feeding of the 5000 when it was a boy's packed lunch that fed the crowd?

And then there was that special meal, that Jesus said that when we eat, we should remember him. It's got a special name - (well lots of names!) - sometimes The Last supper, or sometimes the Lord's supper. Or it can be called communion - which means togetherness, meeting.

We meet with each other at that meal, and we meet with God.

In our special meal with Jesus - our communion - Jesus says - I am the bread, I am the wine..

He is saying that he will feed us.

And that's pretty big. In most religions, people put out food as offerings to the gods - in a Hindu temple you feed the gods, buddhist monks rely on people to feed them, but in Christianity - it is God who feeds us.

And Christians believe there's something very special going on at this communion. One of our prayers says - we are in the presence of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven - we are surrounded by such a cloud of unseen witnesses.

So as we take bread and wine - or whatever you've got - this morning, imagine us being together as a church - imagine us surrounded by angels and archangels. And even if you are alone, you are surrounded by all the loved ones gone before - the great company of heaven.

When we do this - we break bread, we pour wine, we share it amongst us remembering Jesus - this is to break bread in faith, in hope, in love. To break bread as those believing in the resurrection, the communion of saints and the life everlasting.

Amen!