

A Meal

Genesis 37:23-31

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37%3A23-31&version=NIV>

“As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. (vs.25a)

Can you imagine this scene? Joseph has been thrown into an empty cistern. And while he's in there praying or crying for mercy or whatever he is doing, his brothers sit down to have lunch. It makes me think of the 23rd Psalm where we read “though prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.” Except in this text Joseph's enemies, his brothers are sharing in the meal. Even so, God is at work through this “table time.” The physical hunger of the brothers causes them to stop pause in their hunger for Joseph's blood. They pause in their scheming in order to fill their bellies. I believe that it is by God's provision that as they are eating some Ishmaelite's come passing by and the brothers then decide the best thing would be to sell their brother rather than kill him or leave him for dead in the pit.

Over and over again in scripture and in our own lives, God shows up in the breaking of bread, in a meal. Perhaps it is because we have to slow down momentarily when it comes time to eat. We find God in conversations around a table of loved ones. We behold Christ at work when we listen to the story of a waitress serving us at a restaurant. We find the comfort of the Holy Spirit at work in a meal after a funeral. We dance in the joy of the Lord at a wedding banquet. We learn to know our neighbors at a free community meal. Meal times are a time when we can anticipate and expect that God will show up and be present with us. Invite Christ to your table today and be aware of the risen Lord dining with you.