

Observations

- There's always time for a meal.
- Grumblers gonna grumble.
- Word & Table: where sinners & Jesus seek and find each other.
- Salvation appears ahead of time.

1

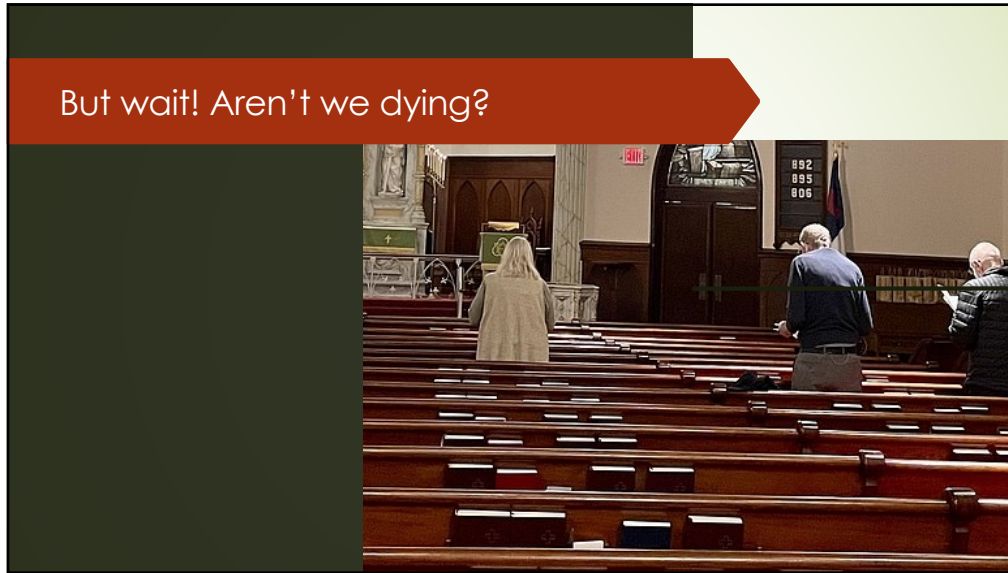
Grumblers Gonna Grumble

- And yet...
- "...I must stay at
your house today!"

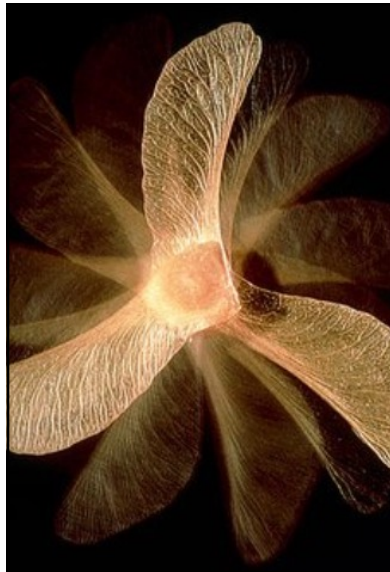


2

But wait! Aren't we dying?



3




Dying, we live.

"...And now when I sway to a fitful wind, alone and listing, I will think, maple key. When I see a photograph of earth from space, the planet so startlingly painterly and hung, I will think, maple key. When I shake your hand or meet your eyes I will think, two maple keys. If I am a maple key falling, at least I can twirl."

—Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, p. 273.


4



At Table with Jesus

- "Then **Levi** gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them" (Luke 5:29).
- "**One of the Pharisees** asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table" (Luke 7:36).
- "Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named **Martha welcomed him** into her home" (Luke 10:38).
- "On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of **a leader of the Pharisees** to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely..." (Luke 14:1).

5



At Table with Jesus

- "When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, '**Zacchaeus**, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today'" (Luke 19:5).
- "So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, **he took bread, blessed and broke it**, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;" (Luke 24:30).
- "While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, '**Have you anything here to eat?**' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. (Luke 24:41 ff.)

6

Matthew 10

As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; **for laborers deserve their food.** ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.



Luke 10

³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, **eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid.** Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, **eat what is set before you;** ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

7

Why all this eating?
The future is now.

- **Jesus is enacting his mission.**
"The Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor..., to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19).
- **The Seventy**
Eating what is set before you prefigures Peter's dream and Cornelius's hospitality in Acts 10.



8

Today

To you is born this day
in the city of David a
Savior, who is the
Messiah, the Lord (Luke
2:11).

9

Today

He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it
was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the
attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the
synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say
to them, "**Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your
hearing.**"

10

Today


"Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must **stay at your house today.**" ... Then Jesus said to him, "**Today salvation has come to this house,** because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost" (Luke 19).

11

Today

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, **today you will be with me in Paradise.**"

12




Is the future now?
Promise,
Hope, Joy

"The promise reveals commitment, reliability, and even passion in the one who promises. It is not merely a message. A message can be detached from its point of origin or from its sender. A promise cannot. A promise loses its very character apart from the one who promises."

Richard Lischer, "Preaching and the Rhetoric of Promise," *Word & World* 8/1 (1988): 73.

13


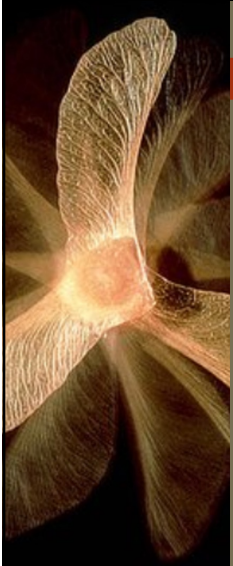


Is the future now?
Promise,
Hope, Joy

"If I am out of work and on relief, and the owner of the local grocery store promises me a job in two weeks, whether or not I now adopt a stance of hope in the world depends on the character of the one who promises. Does he have a history of faithful actions from which I can abstract the quality of faithfulness and ascribe it to him? Are there testimonies to his faithfulness? If so, my life has already changed. It changes with the issuance of the promise."

Richard Lischer, "Preaching and the Rhetoric of Promise," *Word & World* 8/1 (1988): 73.

14



Seeking & Finding
Salvation Ahead of Time

- Early Days in the Church of God
- Ninth Street Bakery
- Your Place