



Small group discussion questions July/August 2016

Chapter & verse – Jack Dyce (page 18)

Read Luke 7:33-35 and Luke 22:14-23 followed by Jack Dyce’s article.

1. Referring to the 1987 film, *Babette’s Feast*, Jack Dyce describes people who are ‘fearful that sensuous sinfulness will enter their fellowship’ through food. In what ways can our senses encourage behaviours and attitudes that are contrary to what God expects of us? How might this contrast with what we expect of ourselves?
2. In Luke 7:34 Jesus’ enemies call him ‘a glutton and a drunkard’. Why do you think they made this accusation? What do you think was the truth behind it?
3. In paragraph six, Jack says: ‘We get to know one another deeply and in a special way around a table.’ Do you agree? How often do you gather around a table in your life, and what do these meetings bring?
4. In what ways can eating together be a spiritual act?
5. What challenges does table fellowship bring, and what might prohibit people from being able to participate?
6. What does bad table fellowship look like? The penultimate paragraph of ‘Chapter & verse’ suggests lacklustre Communion celebrations, ‘churches where after-worship coffee has been abandoned ... [and] visiting preachers ... not offered a cup of tea’. Are there domestic equivalents to these examples?
7. The article ends by suggesting what the world might be hungry for: generosity of disposition, spiritual abundance, sacrificial giving, openness, deep talking and listening and the capacity for (re)building community. What, in your view, is today’s world is hungry for?
8. What steps can the Church and society take to meet the needs discussed above?

