

Reflection Sheet

Questions I need to ask

Discoveries I need to share

Decisions I need to make

The Parish of Cannock and Huntington

Creating Community with Christ at the Centre

Lent Course — The Prodigal Son

Session Five: The Feast of the Father

Luke 15:25 'He heard music and dancing'

- At the end of the parable there is a feast of homecoming
- A meal explains precisely how to experience salvation

A MEAL IS EXPERIENTIAL

- A feast is a place where our appetites and our senses of sight, smell, sound and taste are filled up
- So with salvation: we are invited to taste and see that the Lord is good c.f. Psalm 34:8
- Just as food satisfies so Jesus becomes real in our experience

A MEAL IS MATERIAL

- A meal is a very physical experience
- For Jesus the material world matters—He loves and cares for the material world
- The ultimate purpose of Jesus redemptive work is individual salvation and renewal of the world
- The younger brother is too self-centred and the elder brother too self-righteous to care for the poor

A MEAL IS INDIVIDUAL

- A meal fuels growth through nourishment
- We must therefore personally appropriate the gospel of grace
- We need to feed on the gospel, digesting it and making it part of ourselves
- THIS IS HOW WE GROW IN FAITH AND CHRIST LIKENESS
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A MEAL IS COMMUNAL

- Feasting is communal by nature
- We live in a culture where the interests of the individual take precedence over those of the family, group, or community
- The only way to get to know Jesus in a deeper sense is to be part of a community of believers
- We have a foretaste of that future salvation now in:
 1. Prayer
 2. Service to others
 3. Changes in our inner nature
 4. Healed relationships