

The Gospel According to  
**Luke**

***“Tips from your Waiter”***

Chapter 22:24-38

Introduction

Tipping is a way of expressing satisfaction for the service you've received. The following are suggested tip amounts:

1. At a restaurant: 15% of the bill, or 20% if it's a large party.
2. At a hotel: Chambermaid \$5.00 per night; Room service waiter 15% of the bill; Bellman \$5.00 to \$10.00 for delivering your luggage.
3. For a taxi: 15% of the fare and never less than .25 cents.
4. At the airport: \$1.00 or \$2.00 per bag to the skycaps who carry your bags for you.
5. For pizza delivery: \$1.00 or \$2.00 for regular deliveries; up to \$5.00 for larger deliveries or longer distances.

Larger tips are left for those who provided extraordinary service; smaller tips or no tip at all are left when service was poor. I knew someone who would express her dissatisfaction with service at a restaurant by leaving one penny at the bottom of her full glass of water.

Some of you avoid tipping at all costs. You prefer to think of 'tipping' as a city in China. After all, people get paid for serving you; they don't deserve anything extra. You're happy when the service is sub-par, because it justifies being such a cheapskate.

Whether you tip or not, you recognize a relationship between yourself and your server. Jesus described the relationship when He commented, **Who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table?**

In our normal, everyday way of thinking and relating to one another, it only seems obvious that the person *seated* is greater than the person *servicing*. But Jesus went on to point out, **yet I am among you as the One who serves.**

The Son of God, Who was God in human flesh, was among His disciples as their servant. Since they were seated at dinner, and He was serving, we could say that Jesus was their waiter.

Jesus was their waiter at the Last Supper; and He will be their waiter in the future. In verse thirty He mentioned eating and drinking at His table in the future kingdom of God on earth. Earlier in the Gospel of Luke, when talking to them about this same future feast, Jesus described Himself as girding Himself and serving them. (Luke 12:37).

If you want to know what Jesus was all about, think of Him as your waiter. He said it, not me. This section of Scripture contains tips from your waiter, while you're waiting for the feast He promised to spread and serve in the future.

We'll organize Jesus' tips around two points: #1 Jesus Calls Himself Your Waiter, and #2 Jesus Calls Upon You To Wait.

#### #1 Jesus Calls Himself Your Waiter (v24-34)

The Jews believed that their Messiah would come and immediately establish the promised kingdom of God on earth. It is one reason why these disciples of Jesus did not understand His plain words to the contrary. He plainly told them that the kingdom would be delayed. He would die, be buried, rise from the dead, and ascend into Heaven. At a future date, He would return in His Second Coming to establish the kingdom. The disciples continued to believe that the kingdom was at hand in spite of Jesus' teaching to the contrary.

[Luke 22:24](#) Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

They thought the kingdom was at hand; they were Jesus' key men; it was only natural to wonder about their cabinet positions in the new government.

What you believe affects how you live. If I believe Jesus could come for me, in the Rapture, at any moment, I'm going to look at life differently than if I believe I will remain on earth during the seven-year Great Tribulation. We recognize that sincere Christians differ on things like whether the Rapture is before, during, or after the Great Tribulation; and whether or not there will be a literal kingdom of God on earth. We're expecting Jesus to Rapture us at any moment... And to the extent we really believe it, we will live in a manner pleasing to Him.

Jesus was patient with them – **as He also is with us.**

Luke 22:25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'

Often leaders force their will upon the people, then act as if the people love them by giving themselves some endearing name.

Luke 22:26 But not so *among* you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

Jesus used the term **younger** instead of *least*. In their culture, age was admired and honored.

You should have an attitude like someone **younger** by giving respect and honor to everyone; and you should act as if you were their servant, even if you are their leader. It's just the opposite of our natural way of doing things – whether it's in business, or in the military, or in the field of education.

You need to check your *attitudes* at the door when you are in God's household of faith. And you need to *act* as the lowest servant to those you encounter in God's household.

Luke 22:27 For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is it not he who sits at the table?* Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

If God in human flesh served others, **then how much more should we?**

Luke 22:28 “But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials.

Luke 22:29 And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me,

Jesus called His life on earth, as a man, **My trials**. It doesn't mean He went around depressed all the time. It's a reminder that although He was fully God, He was also fully human, and as such was *tried* in all the same ways you and I are.

These disciples had been with Jesus for the last three and one half years of **His trials**. For all their failures, they remained faithful; and the Lord would overlook their failures and bless them in the future, when He returned to rule and reign over the earth.

OK, that sounds great. I'll take the position of the lowest servant, so I can earn a higher position. ***That's still bad thinking!***

Luke 22:30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

True – Jesus told them they would have positions of leadership, **judging the twelve tribes of Israel**. **BUT:** The emphasis is still on the Lord. Look at Him in this verse. In the kingdom, these guys would be at the Lord's table, **and Jesus would still be serving them!**

You've probably heard it said, *Suffer now to reign later*; or, *You can't wear the crown until you've carried the Cross*. Those statements are accurate – as long as you keep them in the context that you will reign and wear a crown as a servant. If Jesus is waiting on you... You will be waiting on others.

Even now we sometimes think that if I serve for a while, then I will be elevated to a place in the Church where I serve less-and-less, rather than more-and-more. You should always be doing more; bowing lower; discovering greater humility.

Jesus once said that He came to serve, not to be served. Apply that as the theme of your Christian life. For example: You should come to

Church to serve, not to be served. Yet so often people go around shopping for the Church that best serves them. Simultaneously, the Church leadership should think of themselves as waiting tables to serve those who come. It's in an atmosphere of mutual serving that we most represent Jesus.

The kingdom wasn't coming anytime soon. Things were about to radically change for Jesus' followers.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

The devil asked permission to attack Peter... And God said "Yes!" Why? Trials. Jesus had them; we will have them. They work for us. Jesus compared it to **Sifting wheat**. Sure, it involved violent tossing and shaking to separate the wheat from the chaff; but, in the end, all of the useless chaff was gone and you were left with the valuable kernel of wheat.

Peter would seriously falter, but his **faith** would not **fail**. He would sin, but be restored. Afterwards he would be in a position to **strengthen** others in their trials.

We should never presume to sin, knowing God is gracious to forgive and restore. But when you sin, God **is** gracious, and He **does** restore! He returns you to a place of serving others.

Luke 22:33 But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."

Luke 22:34 Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

Peter was a little 'cocky.' Better to remain sheepish. We'll see these words come sadly true a little later in this chapter. See how much Jesus loved Peter – even knowing ahead of time Peter would betray Him! We should run to Jesus, not from Him, when we've sinned. He already knew about it; He already prayed for you; He's ready to restore you.

Jesus is your waiter. Not in the sense that you can order Him to do things, or get you whatever you want. Think of it more like this: In-between the Last Supper and the future feast, there's going to be a lot 'on your plate,' so to speak, as you wait for the Lord. You're going to get a few entrees served-up by the devil, for example. The Lord can serve you everything on His spiritual menu: Grace... Mercy... Love... Joy... Patient endurance... Those kinds of things **are** yours for the asking. And you can get free refills – *of the Holy Spirit!*

You'll need all these, because...

## #2 Jesus Calls Upon You To Wait (v35-38)

Don't you hate waiting to eat at a restaurant? Waiting, in general, is something we despise.

Yet Jesus calls upon us to wait for Him. The Church has been waiting two-thousand years for Jesus to Rapture us. It can wear on us. The next few verses address some issues about waiting.

Luke 22:35 And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing."

Jesus was looking back on the three-and-one-half years of ministry that were now coming to an end. He had sent these guys out with nothing, and they had been miraculously provided for.

Things were about to change:

Luke 22:36 Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take *it*, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.

Luke 22:37 For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."

He quoted from Isaiah Fifty-three, a famous passage that accurately predicted the suffering of the Savior. All the things written about Jesus' first coming to earth were about to **be accomplished** and were coming to **an end**.

In the aftermath of Jesus' death... burial... resurrection... and ascension into Heaven, the ministry of His followers would change. Up until now, Jesus had been offering Israel the kingdom of God on earth. He first sent out His disciples as His royal ambassadors. When they went into various cities, they flashed their credentials – miracles, signs, and wonders. They were mostly treated like royal ambassadors as folks showed them hospitality and took care of all their needs. After all, the kingdom was at hand.

The kingdom offer would be rejected by the religious authorities in Israel. In the aftermath of Jesus' ascension into Heaven, the disciples would not be seen and received the same way. They would be itinerant ministers, pilgrims and travelers, looking forward to a Heavenly city, not making earth their home.

Verse thirty-six is a description of a traveler. If you were going on a trip, you would need all those items. It was, and is, a simple illustration. They used to be treated and equipped like royal ambassadors of the coming kingdom; now they would be treated and equipped like itinerant ministers, traveling like pilgrims through a hostile world on their way home to Heaven.

If you see it that way, as an illustration, you won't make the same mistake the disciples did in verse thirty-eight:

Luke 22:38 So they said, "Lord, look, here *are* two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

When Jesus said, **It is enough**, His words meant, *Enough of this kind of talk*. His words meant that the disciples had misunderstood Him and He didn't want to talk about it anymore.

It's funny because scholars still misunderstand! The mention of the **sword** has been the occasion of much confusion and commentary. Wasn't Jesus a pacifist – telling you to turn the other cheek? Was He now advocating the use of force?

**He wasn't talking about any of that!** He was just using an illustration – telling them they were once treated like royal ambassadors, but would now be treated like travelers.

Let's talk about pacifism and the use of force for a moment. Pacifism is inconsistent with loving my neighbor as myself. Here's why: If I'm a pacifist, and someone is attacking my neighbor, love requires that I help my neighbor – not stand back and allow him to be assaulted or killed.

As far as the use of force... God has definitely ordained human government, and given government the power to use even deadly force when it is justified. However, the kingdom of God cannot be advanced by the use of worldly force. The kingdom of God is advanced by the weakness of the Cross. The weapons of this world must never be taken up by Christians to advance Christianity.

By the way, the particular word for **sword** in verse thirty-six is a small dagger that every traveler carried for defense against robbers and wild animals. It would be like saying, *Don't forget your Kershaw...* Or your Swiss Army Knife, or your Leatherman.

Jesus' disciples had a very different mission after He ascended into Heaven. It was to preach the Gospel to the whole world – Jews and Gentiles; and to call-out from the world a Church that would be Raptured to Heaven prior to the Second Coming of Jesus to set-up the kingdom of God on the earth.

As ambassadors, they had been announcing that the kingdom of Heaven was at hand; there need be no more waiting. But once the religious authorities officially and finally rejected Jesus as their King, the disciples became itinerant ministers, traveling as pilgrims through the earth, preaching the Gospel that calls men out from the world and into the Church.

Jesus calls upon you to wait. It's an urgent waiting – because we believe the Rapture could occur at any moment. The waiting is made more tolerable by what we learned in the earlier verses: Jesus is waiting on you, with all Heaven's resources available to you.

Applying God's Word:



Christian: You are to wait – both as an *attitude*, and as an *activity*. Wait with the attitude that whatever life brings you, the Lord has prayed for you. And then wait on others, as their servant.

Not a believer? God's longsuffering waits for you to get saved, but it will one day be at its end. ***Don't wait to receive the Lord!***