

Luke 11:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

Analysis

And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him (ἐρωτᾷ αὐτὸν Φαρισαῖός τις ὅπως ἀριστήσῃ παρ' αὐτῷ)—the verb *erōtaō* (besought) appears polite, yet context suggests entrapment given growing hostility (vv.53-54). **And he went in, and sat down to meat** (εἰσελθὼν δὲ ἀνέπεσεν)—Jesus accepts despite knowing their hearts, demonstrating accessibility even to critics. The verb *anapiptō* (reclined) indicates formal dining posture.

Luke frequently portrays Jesus dining with various groups, using meals as teaching opportunities. This meal becomes the setting for Jesus's most comprehensive denunciation of Pharisaic religion (vv.39-52), the 'six woes' that expose external religion divorced from internal transformation.

Historical Context

Pharisaic meal fellowship involved elaborate ritual purity laws governing food preparation, hand washing, table fellowship, vessel cleanliness. These regulations, developed to extend priestly purity to everyday life, became badges of spiritual superiority and barriers against 'unclean' common people. The Pharisees' invitation tests whether Jesus observes their traditions.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's willingness to dine with critics model engagement with those who oppose you?
2. What motivations might drive religious leaders to 'invite' Jesus while planning to critique him?
3. How can you maintain truth-telling while remaining accessible to those who disagree?

Interlinear Text

Ἐν	δὲ	τῷ	λαλῆσαι	ἡρωτᾷ	αὐτῷ·	Φαρισαῖος	τις
as	And	G3588	he spake	besought	him	Pharisee	a certain
G1722	G1161		G2980	G2065	G846	G5330	G5100
ὥπως	ἀριστήσῃ	παρ'	αὐτῷ·	εἰσελθὼν	δὲ	ἀνέπεσεν	
to	dine	with	him	he went in	And	and sat down to meat	
G3704	G709	G3844	G846	G1525	G1161	G377	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 7:36 (Resurrection): And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.