

Luke 7:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus enters the Pharisee's house: 'And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat' (Greek 'eiselthōn eis ton oikon tou Pharisaiou kateklithē'). The verb 'cateklithē' (reclined) indicates formal meal customs—guests reclined on couches rather than sitting in chairs. This posture (feet extending away from table) explains how the woman in coming narrative could approach Jesus's feet. Jesus's presence in Pharisee's home demonstrates His missional accessibility. He didn't insulate Himself from potential critics or uncomfortable settings. Reformed theology recognizes incarnational ministry requires entering others' spaces, accepting their hospitality, speaking truth in their contexts. Isolation prevents witness; engagement creates opportunities.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman and Jewish dinner customs involved reclining on left side, right hand free for eating. Multiple guests shared couches arranged around table. The semi-public nature meant servants, students, and curious onlookers might observe. Pharisaic meals included ritual hand-washing, blessing prayers, and careful food selection to maintain purity. Jesus's later omission of washing (Luke 11:38) scandalized His hosts. For early church, Jesus's example of engaging hostile audiences while maintaining truth provided model for witness in hostile contexts.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's willingness to enter potentially hostile environments teach about missional engagement?
2. How do we balance accepting others' hospitality with maintaining convictional boundaries?
3. When does entering others' spaces for witness become compromise versus appropriate contextualization?

Interlinear Text

Ἡρώτα δέ τις αὐτοῦ τῶν Φαρισαίου ἵνα φάγῃ
desired And one him G3588 of the Pharisees that he would eat
G2065 G1161 G5100 G846 G5330 G2443 G5315

μετ' αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν τοῦ
with him And he went into house G3588 G3326 G846 G2532 G1525 G1519 G3614 G3588

Φαρισαίου ἀνεκλίθη
of the Pharisees and sat down to meat
G5330 G347

Additional Cross-References

Luke 14:1 (Resurrection): And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.

Luke 11:37 (Resurrection): And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

