



# DEVOTIONAL

## Food Network

From "the Friendship Initiative: 31 Days of Loving and Connecting Like Jesus" by Amberly Neese

Luke 22:14

"When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table." - Luke 22:14

My mom used to use an expression for those who did not have a lot of mental acuity. She would say they "could not walk and chew gum at the same time".

I can do that easily. I can walk, chew gum, grocery shop, make a pizza, and talk to someone on the phone - I am a marvel of multi-tasking. Except when I am typing. I cannot type and listen to someone talk at the same time. If someone is having a conversation with me and I am typing something, some of their words end up in my document. My family thinks this is hilarious.

One time, I got up early to answer the 127 emails in my inbox. One of those was from a friend who shared with me that she was going through a rough time. I was really touched by her email and wanted to respond with the most comforting words I know - Psalm 23. I have it memorized, so I began to type it, from memory, when my family entered the kitchen and started talking about breakfast. I tried not to listen to their conversation, but I found myself thinking about omelettes and pancakes. I finished the email to my hurting friend, but read through it one more time to make sure there were no apparent punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors. I am so thankful I did. While my family was discussing all the wonderful choices for breakfast, one of their suggestions made it into my email inadvertently.

"The Lord is my BACON, I shall not want."

Oh my. I am so glad I caught that before I hit send. I told you I cannot be trusted with a keyboard when people are talking. I would have confused my friend, angered all Jewish people who adhere to a no pork policy, and confessed my food idolatry all at the same time.

I cannot always multitask the way I want. In fact, I think that multitasking is a necessity in these busy times, but I don't think anyone does things as well, as thoroughly, as completely as when they focus on one thing at a time.

Jesus was intentional with his connections with people and the time they spent together.

Read [Luke 22:14](#).

- What was going on before and after this verse?
- In what activity was Jesus and His disciples engaged?

Jesus knew that He would be betrayed and killed. He knew that one of His own followers, a man who had witnessed all the miracles, been a part of unexplainable wonders, and had walked with Jesus every day, was going to betray Him.

He could have preached a sermon series on this night. He could have done more wonders, healed more sick, fed more crowds, and raised more dead people. But He didn't. On the night Jesus was betrayed, He chose to just hang with His people.

They were reclining at the table - a hard concept to grasp with the current dining room sets most sit at each night in the 21st century. But the tables at that time were part table, part sofa, absolutely a connecting place. I am ready for LazyBoy to bring something like that back. Oftentimes, the custom was that friends and family would recline on one another - meals were more relaxed and lasted longer than our meals do now.

The disciples were just hanging out with Jesus. And He with them. No doubt He had much on His mind, but He chose to take the time to just be - be present, be still, be together.

- How does Jesus treat the disciples in this verse?
- Do you struggle to be fully present when your schedule is full? How do you combat that? What is making your calendar really busy right now?
- What does this verse tell us about the character of God?
- To what are you most looking forward today? Did you find it difficult to make the time for the Team Adventure Day?
- What are you hoping for your team to gain from the day?

## PRAYER FOR TODAY:

Father, forgive me for the times I am busy with tasks and focused on activity instead of connecting with others. Thank you for Jesus' example of being present and available to others. May I slow down long enough today to really enjoy the people You put in my path. Amen.