

Bible Detectives

Case 2

“What Would Jesus Eat?”

The Mystery

What would Jesus eat? What should I eat?

Just the Facts (To Be Completed by Detective)

1. Genesis 1:29-30.

- Who identified what was to be eaten as food? _____
- Who was told about it? _____
- What was to be eaten as food? _____
- When was the instruction given? _____

2. Genesis 9:1-4.

- Who identified what was to be eaten as food? _____
- Who was told about it? _____
- What was to be eaten as food? _____
- When was the instruction given? _____
- What, if anything, is now included as food that was not included before? _____
- Why might this change have occurred? _____

3. Leviticus 11.

- Who identified what was to be eaten as food? _____
- Who was told about it? _____
- What distinction among animals as food was made? _____
- When was the instruction given? _____
- What, if anything, is now included as food that was not included before? _____
- What, if anything, is now excluded as food that was included before? _____
- Why might this change have occurred? _____

4. Exodus 12:1-12.

- Who identified what was to be eaten at the Passover meal? _____
- Who was told about it? _____
- What was to be eaten at the meal? _____
- When was the Passover meal to be eaten? _____

5. Matthew 26:17

- Who ate the Passover meal? _____

6. Mark 6:35-44.

- **Who** gave food to the people? _____
- **What** food was given to the people? _____

7. Mark 7:17-19.

- **Who** is teaching? _____
- **What** is now declared as clean food? _____

8. Romans 14:15.

- **What** is more important?
____ Eating whatever you want.
____ Being considerate of the feelings of others.

9. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.

- **What** is the main subject? _____
- **What** is the body? _____
- **How** might this principle apply to food choices, even if that is not the main topic of Paul's teaching? _____

10. Colossians 2:16-17.

- **What** is a shadow of things to come that are found in Christ? _____

Conclusions

1. Genesis 1:29-30. Adam and Eve:

- ____ were vegetarians
- ____ ate meat
- ____ may have been vegetarians, or may have eaten meat too; the evidence is unclear

2. Genesis 9:1-4. After the flood, Noah and his family :

- ____ were vegetarians
- ____ ate meat
- ____ may have been vegetarians, or may have eaten meat too; the evidence is unclear

3. Leviticus 11. When the law was given to the people through Moses:

- ____ Israelites were not allowed to eat any meat
- ____ Israelites were allowed to any meat
- ____ Israelites were allowed to eat some meat, but not all meat

4. Exodus 12:1-12. Israelites were to eat the Passover meal, which included roasted lamb.

- ____ A vegetarian could not fully participate as instructed
- ____ God probably wouldn't mind if an Israelite didn't eat the meal

5. **Matthew 26:17.** Jesus at the Passover meal.
 Jesus did eat roasted lamb, unleavened bread, etc.
 Jesus did not eat roasted lamb, unleavened bread, etc.
6. **Mark 6:35-44.** Jesus gave fish and bread to the people to eat.
 God doesn't want people to eat bread or fish.
 It must be OK to eat bread and fish, since this is what Jesus fed the people.
7. **Mark 7:17-19.** Jesus teaches about the source of defilement.
 We are defiled by what we eat.
 We are defiled by our thoughts and actions, not by the food we eat.
8. **Romans 14:15.** Paul gives balance to our Christian liberty. You are free to eat food according to your own conscience,
 so eat whatever you want!
 but be considerate of others.
9. **1 Corinthians 6:18-20.** How might this principle apply to food choices, even though that is not the main topic of Paul's teaching? _____
10. **Colossians 2:16-17.** In some mysterious way, laws concerning _____ are a picture of Christ.

The Inspector's Conclusions (To Be Verified by Detective)

1. **Genesis 1:29-30.** Adam and Eve were probably vegetarians. Until the time of Noah, most people were vegetarians, though a few may have violated this and eaten meat.
2. **Genesis 9:1-4.** After the flood, Noah and his family began eating meat with God's blessing.
3. **Leviticus 11.** The law identified meat not to be eaten. Perhaps the reason was for safety or for distinctness.
4. **Exodus 12:1-12.** The Passover included meat (roasted lamb).
5. **Matthew 26:17.** Jesus ate meat. (He probably drank wine, too, but that's another subject.)
6. **Mark 6:35-44.** Since Jesus gave meat (fish) to other people, eating meat must be OK.
7. **Mark 7:17-19.** We are defiled by our thoughts and actions, not by the food we eat.
8. **Romans 14:15.** Paul gives balance to our Christian liberty.
9. **1 Corinthians 6:18-20.** Even though this verse is teaching about immorality, the principle can be applied to encourage general health, including food that we eat.
10. **Colossians 2:16-17.** In some mysterious way, laws concerning food are a picture of Christ.

Want to eat meat? Go ahead. Want to be a vegetarian? Fine, as long as your diet is healthy. Want to pig out on nothing but ice cream for a week? That's probably not a good idea – not because ice cream is “evil” but because that excess is unhealthy. The Bible doesn't teach that some foods are “good” and some are “bad”, so we're left of find a healthy balance in our diet.