

I want to tell you about the three most famous meals in the history of the world. Servers? (Servers bring out trays.)

The first was the apple. Remember this story? Not Sleeping Beauty. Adam and Eve. God told them they could eat anything they wanted except for the fruit of one tree which the angels had sprayed with Alar. But the devil tempted them. Adam and Eve knew one reason why they shouldn't eat it--God asked them not to, but they thought of three reasons why they should: It was beautiful, it was nourishing, and it would give them knowledge.

This was the first most famous meal. The people who ate it found out they loved themselves more than they loved God. Sometimes we eat this meal. We eat selfishness. We eat prejudice. We eat this meal whenever we love ourselves more than anyone else.

The second most famous meal in the history of the world was lamb. People were in slavery, and to free them God punished the Egyptians. Moses told the people to kill the lambs. They sprinkled the blood on their doors and the angel of God passed over those homes and slayed the firstborn children of the bad guys. Oh, there was the occasional parent who shouted out the window to the angel, "Hey, you can have my firstborn child, too." But God loved his own children. They all sat down and ate the lamb.

This was the second most famous meal. The people who ate it found out that God loved them more than anyone else. Sometimes we eat this meal. We eat fear. We eat worry. And we find out that God loves us when no one else does.

The third most famous meal in the history of the world was bread and wine. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread and wine and said to his disciples, "Take this, all of you, and eat it; this is my body. Take this, all of you, and drink it; this is my blood." It tasted like bread; it tasted like wine; but it made them different inside. So James and John cleared the table, even though they didn't feel like it. And Peter did the dishes; but he said, "This is women's work."

This was the third and most famous meal in the history of the world. The people who eat it find out how much God loves them. God loves us so much that the Word became Flesh. God loves us so much that the flesh gave up its life on the cross. God loves us so much that the flesh remains with us today in our Eucharist. Sometimes we eat this meal. We eat charity. We eat self-sacrifice. And we find out how much we can love.

The point of this meal was to undo that meal. This gift of love reverses that sin of pride.

There's no real trick to following the example of Christ. It's just a matter of eating the right food.