

THE BRANCHES BULLETIN

ROOTED. ABIDING. BEARING FRUIT.

*A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANCHES COMMUNITY CHURCH
A CHURCH PLANT REACHING MONTPELIER, VT*



THE MONDAY NIGHT MEAL

Winters in Montpelier are brutal, and this year has been no exception. We've had days where the temperature drops into the negatives, with wind chills reaching -30 to -40 degrees. In conditions like these, simply being indoors can be the difference between safety and real danger.

Because of this, our city and several local churches have worked together to make sure our unhoused neighbors have a warm place to go. Each night, they're welcomed in, served a hot meal, and given a safe place to sleep.

We've had the privilege of preparing and serving the Monday night meal alongside Capital Community Church. On an average night, we serve about 25 people; and more than that, we get to sit, eat, and share the table together. Faces are becoming familiar. Conversations are getting easier. What started as "serving a meal" is slowly becoming the beginning of real relationships.

It's been a gift to partner with other churches and to serve our community in this way. We're grateful for the opportunity to show Christ's love in practical, tangible ways.

Please be in prayer for us as we continue this for the next eight weeks. We're asking God to form lasting relationships and open doors for meaningful gospel conversations as we keep showing up, week after week.



WWJD?

By: Grace Bradley

I found this chart in an AI-generated Facebook posts. Those frustrate me, so I generally keep scrolling...but this one caught my attention enough to screenshot it and do some research.

The topic was: How did Jesus spend His earthly time?

As with most AI-generated materials, there's a lot of context missing here. What counts as a "scene"? Were all accounts from all four gospels counted separately or were they combined? I don't have any answers to these questions and several more, but I did uncover an amazing truth in doing some digging and research.

We don't know how Jesus spent all His time here on earth. We just know what the writers tell us. We know what Jesus wants us to know. That's where this chart spoke to me.

If I had it my way, I would choose to know more about the run-ins Jesus had with the religious crowd. How did He put them in their place with His message of grace? Exactly how many tables did He flip in His lifetime?

But that's not the focus of the gospels.

The focus of the gospels is that Jesus cared enough about real, hurting, sick, searching people to sit down and have a meal with them. He loved them enough to listen to them and talk with them. He went in their homes and sat with them. He cried with them.

If I'm gonna be like Jesus...if we, as His church, will be more like Him...we have to care about the things He cared about. We have to care about people enough to meet them where they are and love them for who they are.

So today and going forward I'll be asking myself the question "WWJD?" And more times than not the answer is going to be this:

Sit, eat, talk, repeat.

Primary Context of Scene	# of Scenes	% of Total Scenes
Conflict with religious leaders	12	10%
Travel, calling disciples, on the way	14	12%
Healings, miracles, deliverance	19	17%
Public teaching, sermons to crowds	21	18%
Meals, tables, homes, hospitality, food setting	49	43%

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US



Right now, our church is meeting in Berlin, but our heart, our mission, and our community are in Montpelier. We are grateful for the place we have, but we believe God is calling us to plant ourselves more fully in the city where we live, serve, and build relationships every day.

Having a building in Montpelier is not about comfort or convenience. It is about presence. It is about being accessible, consistent, and rooted in the community God has called us to love. A permanent home base allows us to gather more easily, serve more faithfully, and continue building the kind of relationships that do not just happen on Sundays.

This month, we are focusing intentionally on raising the funds needed to make that step possible. Jesse will be reaching out personally to share the vision and invite people into this next season with us. We are praying, planning, and trusting God to provide what we need to move forward.

If you are looking for a way to partner with us, here are a few simple ways you can help:

- **Pray** for wisdom, provision, and the right opportunity in Montpelier
- **Give** toward our building fund, if you are able
- **Share** the vision with someone who might want to be part of this story
- **Talk** with us if you have questions or want to know more about where we are headed

We are excited about what God is doing, and we are grateful for every person who is walking with us as we work toward having a home in Montpelier again.

Online giving available here through Tithe.ly



visit our website for more information

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