

Breaking of Bread as Discipleship

Practicing the Way series: Sharing the Table

Sunday message from March 5th, 2023

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **Sharing the table may be one of the most forgotten practices of the church.**
 - ❖ What is the church known for in today's world? How does this compare with the things Jesus said His followers should be known by?
 - ❖ How might "sharing the table" impact how the church is known in the world?
- **Luke gives us the early church's "spiritual formation pathway"—how they were growing in Jesus, doing ministry and how they were living out the mission Jesus gave them.**
 - ❖ Read [Acts 2.42-47](#). What were they doing? What characterized their lives and interactions with others? What common threads do you observe among their actions?
 - ❖ Reflect on each action listed. What might it have looked like specifically, practically? How might it have impacted their growth in following Jesus and their relationships with others?
- **The spiritual formation and ministry of the early church was centered around the table.**
 - ❖ The Greek grammar in verse 42 could be translated to combine the four actions into two pairs:
 - 1) teaching and fellowship; 2) breaking of bread and prayer.
 - We could say: 1) teaching around the table; 2) prayer around the table.
 - ❖ In your reflection on the various actions in this passage (above), how might the table play a role?
 - ❖ What if being around the table together was the path to deeper discipleship and spiritual growth in the early church?
- **Teaching, worship and prayer have their place, but maybe the table should take up more space.**
 - ❖ What might discipleship look like centered around the table?
 - ❖ What might the impact be of the table being the place where teaching, worship and prayer happened?
 - ❖ What might it look like for the table to take up more space? What might the impact be?
- **Love requires proximity.**
 - ❖ We need both God and each other for our souls to survive.
 - ❖ Our whole lives should be marked by love. Who are you in proximity with? Who are you loving?
- **What does your table look like?**
 - ❖ Read [Acts 2.47](#), reflecting specifically on the phrase "having favor with all the people". How might this have come about? What is implied in the "how" and "who" of the early church's actions?
 - ❖ How often does your table look different from you (differing views, ages, lifestyles, beliefs, etc.)?
- **Jesus came near when we were far away.**
 - ❖ Where, in Scripture, do you see Jesus loving people (and us) by moving near?
 - ❖ What can you learn and follow from Jesus seeking relational proximity with people?
- What statements or aspects of this message bring comfort? Which bring conviction? Take some time to talk to God about what bubbles up as you read/hear and reflect on this message.
- What might God be inviting you into as a response to this message/reflection on sharing the table?