

Practicing for Heaven at the Table

Practicing the Way series: Sharing the Table

Sunday message from March 26th, 2023

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **We have to share the table if we are going to journey together. It is foundational to our discipleship.**
 - ❖ How have you seen the table be a place of hospitality, love, discipleship, justice and reconciliation in this sermon series?
 - ❖ What has challenged you, felt heavy or excited you about this sermon series?
 - ❖ What has sharing the table meant for you as you've begun practicing?
- **As Jesus shares a meal at a Pharisee's house, He points out in several ways that the values of His Kingdom are very different than those expected by His dinner host and fellow guests.**
 - ❖ Read [Luke 14.1-14](#).
 - ❖ How do Jesus' actions, stories and questions challenge the values of the people at the table with Him?
 - ❖ From this passage, how would you describe the values of Jesus' "upside-down" Kingdom?
- Read [Luke 14.15-24](#) (parallel passage is in [Matthew 22.1-14](#))
 - ❖ How does this parable fit with the context of conversation at the dinner table (Luke 14.1-14)?
 - ❖ What stands out to you in this story? Why?
 - ❖ Who do you most relate to in the parable? Why?
 - ❖ The master calls for the "unredeemable" to be compelled to be at his feast. What challenge does this invitation bring for you?
- **The King has a deep longing to be with His children and for His children to long to be with Him.**
 - ❖ How do you see this aspect of God's heart in the feast parable?
 - ❖ Consider your relationship with God. How does this aspect of God's heart impact you?
- **The longing King wants His house, His table to be full.**
 - ❖ How might this longing of God impact your table?
- **The longing King wants His house, His table to be full... and even the snakes are welcome.**
 - ❖ Consider the painting "[Even the Snakes](#)" by [Scott Erickson](#) and the movie clip of [Pee-wee's burning pet shop rescue](#).
 - ❖ Who are snakes to you? (those who are "untouchables", scary, uncomfortable, mysterious, hostile, etc.)
 - ❖ What emotions arise as you sit with the idea of rescuing the "snakes" (ie. inviting them to the table)? Fear, confusion, disgust, fatigue, hardness, numbness, etc.?
 - ❖ Spend some time asking Jesus, "What do I do with this?" and listen for His answer. Consider committing to journey with Jesus as you seek His answer.
- **When our table looks like Jesus' table, we are practicing for heaven.**
 - ❖ What does Jesus' table look like? Who's there? What is the atmosphere like?
 - ❖ How does the Kingdom of God being here now affect your table?
 - ❖ What might it look like for you to take steps to make your table look more like Jesus' table?
- 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?