

Sharing the Table

Practicing the Way series

Sunday message from February 26th, 2023

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **This is the first Sunday in Lent, a season of fasting in preparation for Easter. However, Sundays are traditionally a feast day. This year, during Lent, we will focus on feasting—our 2023 journeying together practice of Sharing the Table.**
- **Before the Last Supper was a sacrament, it was a meal. Jesus invited His closest followers to the table.**
 - ❖ Read [Luke 22.7-19](#), specifically reflecting on the meal. Imagine what it would have looked like to prepare, eat and enjoy this meal as a group of people. What “ordinary” acts would have taken place?
- **We need to recapture some of what the early church was built around... sharing the table.**
 - ❖ “Jesus turned routine meals into kingdom realities, which means a new society was being formed around evening dinner tables.” ~ Scot McNight, *A Fellowship of Differents*
 - ❖ What was significant about gathering around a table for the early church? What aspects of that may be beneficial for us to recapture in the rhythm of our daily lives? What might that look like?
- **God’s people should be the most hospitable people on earth.**
 - ❖ “We cannot be deeply formed into the image of Jesus without our lives mirroring gracious hospitality.” ~ Rich Villodas, *The Deeply Formed Life*
 - ❖ What might mirroring Jesus’ gracious hospitality look like in your life?
- **The disciples did nothing to earn Jesus’ invitation to share the table.**
 - ❖ Read [Luke 22.20-23](#). Reflect on the fact that Jesus invited Judas to this meal. What does this teach you about Jesus? How might this impact your response as Jesus invites you to His table?
- **If Jesus can invite His betrayer to the table, then we can invite people who are different from us to our table.**
 - ❖ Who comes to mind when you read this? Talk to God about the person or group that comes to mind.
- **What if your table was about creating space for love to flourish?**
 - ❖ What might this look like in your life? What would it look like to create space for someone to feel valued?
 - ❖ Toward whom might God be inviting you to extend His grace?
- **A simple return to the practice of sharing the table allows for Jesus’ love and hospitality to be formed in us.**
- **If we truly follow in the example of Jesus, maybe who we choose to invite to our tables should offend the religious people around us.**
 - ❖ How does this statement sit with you? What resonates? What bristles? Why might this statement have that effect on you? Talk to God about what bubbles up?
- **Jesus models love at the table. He didn’t just host, He served.**
 - ❖ Read [Luke 22.24-27](#). What do you observe?
 - ❖ How might Jesus be inviting you to follow Him in hosting? In serving?
 - ❖ What small step might God be inviting you to take toward sharing the table this week?