

At The Table Series  
The Table Is For Conversations

Apprentices Use Their Table  
Meals With Meaning  
The Pace Of Relationships

Before we study the scriptures today, I want to start out by asking you some questions. I would like to present you with something for our evaluation.

Where is your spiritual table?  
Where do you experience Jesus and the working of the Holy Spirit?  
Where is the table set for you with Father God?

I ask this as I believe that many of us have some very misleading ideas about meeting with God.

I am walking a very fine line here this morning and I do not want you to misunderstand what I am saying so please listen closely and if I am confusing then please ask me to clear up any misunderstanding.

I believe that many of us have been led to believe that we must go to a set aside place or what is considered to be a holy place to meet God.

We have buildings with beautiful and ornate things that seem to set us apart for experiencing a Holy God.

**I am not against buildings and beautifully refined things that represent the things of God for humanity but I want us to evaluate certain things that some of us take for granted as I believe it has a functional effect on our faith walk.**

**This is such a subtle thing but it can be very misleading when we believe that there are certain places to experience God or that our spiritual lives somehow need to be managed through church leadership or a denomination.**

**Here at MVC, we partner with and submit to one another for the glory of the Lord and the promotion of the gospel message. We are not trying to control people but rather help them understand the freedom that can be experienced in the body of Christ as we all participate together.**

Do we really believe that we have to go to God in a special place?  
Do we need to clean ourselves up and/or get our act together to experience his love?

There was a place and a purpose for the temple in the Old Testament.  
Even in the Old Testament, the family was the center of life for the children of Israel.

Things transitioned with the new Covenant established by our Lord Jesus.

**I hope you can sense my heart in this as I have been seeking wisdom for so many years about the separation that many of us have experienced between our private lives and our church lives.**

Do you come to God all cleaned up to a place that represents His holiness?.....OR  
Does God come to you just as you are, where you live your life?

Are you trying to get a seat at Jesus' table?  
Are you making room for Jesus at your table?

**Jesus came in human form. Yeshua lived, died, and rose again for us to be reunited to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This faith and forgiveness relationship is not based on a set aside place of worship but rather the entirety of a human existence.....24/7.**

Luke 19:1-10 NKJV

*Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. <sup>2</sup> Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, **“Zacchaeus, make haste (hurry) and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”** <sup>6</sup> So he made haste (hurried) and came down, and received Him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> But when they saw it, they all complained (gumbled), saying, **“He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”** <sup>8</sup> Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” <sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, **“Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; <sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”***

Acts 2:46 NASB 1995

***<sup>46</sup>Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house (in various private homes), they were taking their meals (food) together with gladness and sincerity (simplicity) of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.***

Luke 24:13-35 Jesus appears to the disciples on the road to Emmaus then he stays with them and their eyes are opened as they are sharing a meal together.

Luke 24:36-49 Jesus suddenly appears to the disciples

NIV 26:40-44 <sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence. <sup>44</sup> He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

**I want to highlight something.....these were meals and in the personal experiences of our Lord's apprentice followers. Notice, not at the temple in Jerusalem.**

### **The Table Is For Conversation**

- Does Jesus have a permanent seat at your table?
- Is His existence part of your conversation at the table?
- The table should be a natural place for conversation about life.....physical, emotional, and spiritual.

In his book, *A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission around the Table* Author Tim Chester says.

**“Meals bring mission into the ordinary. But that’s where most people are—living in the ordinary. That’s where we need to go to reach them. We may not long for bread, but we long for meaning, intimacy, fulfillment, community, purpose, and joy.”**

**We are working toward reclaiming the simplicity of God’s design for our lives and in the process we are able to establish our homes as a center for spiritual vitality.**

**We are reclaiming our homes and our tables for the glory of God!**

**This must be a personal commitment as well as a family pursuit.**

I believe the home should be the daily center of spiritual expression, worship, and evangelism because it is a natural place for conversations.

Conversations about God should not be awkward but a natural reflection of growing relationship.

As we are growing, learning, and changing then our homes become a place for our Lord and Savior to continue to occupy with us. The Holy Spirit is welcome in the midst of our family.

Acts 2:46 NASB 1995

***<sup>46</sup>Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house (in various private homes), they were taking their meals (food) together with gladness and sincerity (simplicity) of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.***

Let's trust God and His plan. Let's ask Him to help us to understand how to live in healthy relationship with a vibrancy that comes from the Holy Spirit.