

At The Table Series

The Table Reflects A Mindset

Last study we discussed how the table is for conversations.

We talked about the difference between trying to get a seat at Jesus table versus giving Him a seat at your table.

Review the visual illustration between the religious setting and the table in a home.

One seems ordinary while the other one is adorned to present a sense of holy separation.

I asked some questions of a metaphorical as well as of a realistic nature:

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 want to use this visual for this lesson today.

I want to point out a subtle misconception between these two visuals that we have adopted for many years.

When we use the term “ministry”, it is often used in the context of the religious setting or a religious gathering.

Most often the term “ministry” is used in the context of a public, visible presentation role.

More like a platform position of visible expression.

Some sort of special position reserved for only a few really special people who are extremely qualified for this special public position.

BibleDictionaryToday.com

What does “Ministry” mean in the Bible? I would recommend this article for your consideration.

The Biblical Meaning of Ministry: At its core, the biblical meaning of ministry can be understood as a form of service that is rooted in the call to love and serve others in the name of God. The Greek word for ministry, *diakonia*, is often translated as “service.” This term encompasses a wide range of activities, from preaching and teaching to acts of charity and support.

Ministry is often symbolized through various biblical figures who exemplified selfless service. For example, Jesus Christ is the ultimate model of ministry, as He came “not to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45, NIV). His life was a testament to the importance of serving others, whether it was healing the sick, feeding the hungry, or washing the disciples' feet. This act of washing feet is particularly powerful—it symbolizes humility, love, and the willingness to serve, even in the most menial tasks.

We have discussed the importance of Ephesians 4:11-12 for the health of the body, the church. 2 Corinthians 5:18 as well as James 1:27 highlight that true ministry is characterized by compassion and action.

Back to our misconception regarding “ministry”.

The ordinary.....the normal.....the mundane.....the daily is the most powerful instances for real ministry to take place.

I want you to begin to see the table as a powerful place for ministry.

Acts 18:1-4 NKJV

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. ³ So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

More references to them in chapter 18 if you want to look deeper.

We will wrap things up next week with a more in-depth consideration of Aquila and Priscilla. I would recommend that you do a little study of them using SpiritSpeakAI, GotQuestions.org, or Bible.org with the field Priscilla and Aquila.

The Table really does reflect a mindset.

When we slow down and realize the importance of the simple things in the context of God’s loving plan for our lives, the table becomes a powerful place for meaningful time and deep conversations.

The table begins to take on a ministry mindset or attitude.

It is not about a specific place or a specific setting but rather a place for missional interactions.

We talked about hospitality in our study of Romans 12.

Several highlights to help us use our tables for a ministry mindset:

- Share what you have at your table regardless of your status
- Invite others to your table not just your favorite people
- The most powerful approach for the table is through a transfer of ownership. In your mind, give yourself to God and make Him Lord of your life. Give control to God. I

In our western culture it is common to believe in Jesus as the Son of the Living God and we praise God for that decision of faith. It is often not understood that we need to make Jesus your Savior and Lord. We can easily overlook that reality of the scriptural proclamation of Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The references to Jesus as Lord exponentially outnumber the scriptures of Jesus as Savior.

Our faith/trust needs to grow to the point of trusting Jesus as our Lord, our King, our Ruler, or our Supreme.

Romans 12:1-2 Presenting ourselves to God as a sacrifice or an offering that is alive.

Before Jesus.....everything is mine.

Once we believe in Jesus as Savior, it is just natural to continue to see everything as mine but now I have love, forgiveness, and hope through Jesus.

Once we believe in Jesus as Savior and as Lord, we no longer see everything as mine but rather we give it to Him, it is His.

We transfer ownership of all that we are and all that we have to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

When we transfer ownership, we become managers.

The responsibility of managing God's blessings now takes on an entirely different meaning because it's not just about what we want but what He wants.

Our management becomes a missional endeavor.

Now the table, the room, the place where we live, the clothes, the vehicles, the accounts, as well as everything in our lives changes our mindset and attitude.

Matthew 22:37-40 NLT

³⁷ Jesus replied, " 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

The Lord your God

We continue to point out that this process is not an accidental process but rather a path of intentionality.

We must be intentional and purposeful in our lives of being faith followers of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Invitation to believe and trust on a deeper level.

Learning, growing, and changing as a follower apprentice of Jesus of Nazareth.

Jude 1:2 NLT *May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love.*