

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sacred Practices: The Table

Isaiah 25:6; John 2:1-3, 6-11; Revelation 9:19

September 14 & 15, 2019

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon and take note of its truths about God, who we are as his people and what's required to follow him.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Ray said that some of the richest moments of our lives happen at a table when we feast. Can you think of a time or memory when this was true for you? Share with the group.
2. What is/has been your view of being at the table? Has it been a priority in your life? Have you sensed it moving from the center of your life?

Sacred Practices: The Centrality of the Table.

1. Recount some of the many stories from the Bible that involved food and/or eating. Why do you think God used food so much in the story of the Israelites, to the kings and all the way to Jesus through Revelation?

2. In what ways should Jesus' practice of eating inform our practice of eating? (Think of his frequency of eating, what he ate and whom he ate with.)

Sacred Practices: The Priority of the Table. (Lessons, Love)

1. Making the table a priority includes addressing where we are physically seated when we eat. We also cannot just make our meal "something that we just get over with." What have been your family practices (as a child and adult) in these areas and how might you need to improve?
2. Ray outlined the lessons of the table being *dependence/gratitude; hope; and joy/pleasure*. Discuss what you remember Ray saying about each of these lessons. Describe your experience of how God has taught you these lessons at your own tables.
3. Steve Brown said that as a Christian, "You ought to live your life with such joy that people will doubt your salvation." There is obvious hyperbole in that statement, but reflect on whether that is true of you. Is it true of your home? Your marriage? Your family? Your Life Group?
4. At the table we get to express love - love of our family, neighborly love and the Father's love. How are each of these uniquely expressed at the table?
5. During weekend worship, as we heard about the table in the sermon, we also went to the table of the Lord's Supper. How is the Father's love expressed to you at the communion table?

6. Just like at the Wedding at Cana, what is the spiritual and theological implication of Jesus, “restocking the bar” for you? (Think: an abundance of wine = an abundance of grace.)

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?