Week 3: At the Table

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**:Luke 5:31-32

Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

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**Day 2:** Luke 7:47

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

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**Day 3:** Luke 6:41-42

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

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**Day 4:** Luke 14:13-14

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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**Day 5:** Acts 2:46-47

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Luke seems to pick stories of Jesus involving tax collectors and prostitutes. They exemplify notorious sinners. It’s almost as if Luke is testing us. Have we grasped God’s grace? How do we react when a promiscuous woman kisses the feet of Jesus? Do we celebrate grace, or are we scandalized? Jesus is socially disruptive, is He not? And we don’t like church to be disrupted. How do you react to those whom the world might see as marginalized? Jesus is a friend of sinners... Who would Jesus be proud of you for befriending?

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2. What is the difference between the Pharisee and the woman who crashed the party? Why do you think that the woman would even think of attempting to get to Jesus in a place she knew she would not be welcome? (Luke 7:22-23; Luke 6:37; Luke 6:20-22; Luke 5:29-32) How did Jesus see the woman?

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3. Read Luke 7:40-43. The principle is simple. If someone forgives you, you’ll love them. If someone forgives you a lot, you’ll love them a lot. So, what is Jesus saying about the sin of Simon? What does Jesus reveal about the Pharisees’ definition of righteousness? The Pharisee believes that Jesus cannot be a prophet because of who He is associating with. His attitude toward this woman reveals His true heart. Difficult people tend to expose our true hearts. The difference then between the Pharisee and the woman is not how they view Jesus, but how they view themselves. Explain what it means to be blind to your own blindness.

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4. There has been a 33% drop in families eating together over the last 3 decades. And more than half of those families are watching television as they eat together. Over the same period of time, there’s been a 45% decline in entertaining friends. In a typical American household, the average number of dinners eaten together is three per week, with the average length of dinner being 20 minutes. Starbucks tells us that the secret of Starbuck’s success is not in its coffee, but the pull of the coffeehouse as a place. Starbucks is selling us hospitality. How should the church adopt this philosophy? (Meals force you to be people-oriented instead of task-oriented.) Discuss hospitality in our church. How can we improve?

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5. “The church is a community of broken people finding family around a meal under the tree of Calvary.” How might you use this quote to invite neighbors or colleagues into your home or Community group to share a meal and begin a conversation, at the table?

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