

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: All Around You
Title: God Near at the Table
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Text: Luke 22:7-20
Date: January 7, 2018



WARM-UP

- Relationally, what was the best experience you had as a family during this Christmas season?
- Did your family grow closer together during this time, or was it stressful, challenging, unhappy etc?
- Did you do something different that made Christmas more meaningful as a family?

DISCUSSION

Review the Message:

- Re-read Luke 22:7-20
- The history of the meal:
 - a. Passover in Exodus: Exodus 12:21-28
 - b. The Table of Presence during the Feast of Tabernacles – Leviticus 24:5-9
 - c. In Prophecy - A Feast for all peoples: Isaiah 25:6-8
 - d. In New Creation: Matthew 22:2, Revelation 19:19

Sharing a Meal with Jesus: This is not mere liturgy – not just a habit (“Been here, done this before.”)

- **The Last Supper** – Luke 22
 - a. **Theology** – the ‘head’ piece: (**Know it**) We have to know the details, the truth and significance of Jesus’ suffering, death, resurrection.
 - b. **Intimacy** – the ‘heart’ piece: (**Experience it**)
 - ⇒ The “Lord’s Table” with Jesus as our **host** – “pull up a chair with Jesus.”
 - ⇒ **Participation** with Jesus and each other – I Corinthians 10:16-17 – that’s why we call it “Communion”.
 - c. Which one of these two elements are we stronger in? Why do you think that is?
- **The Emmaus Meal:** Luke 24:13-35
 - a. See verses 28-32
 - b. We can recognize Jesus and see with opened eyes. Have you been in a table setting with others where you saw Jesus in a brand new way?
- **Thoughts to Ponder & Action Points:**
 - a. How can this message **transform**: (a marked change)
 - ⇒ **My thinking:** *Is there a new understanding of what this table experience means to me; “I’ve seen ‘Lord’s Table’ in a more meaningful way?”*
 - ⇒ **My attitude:** *How might this message refresh my attitudes toward this table experience? “I’ve done this so many times, it’s actually a ritual I go through it and I’ve lost any sense of wonder and amazement!”*
 - ⇒ **My behavior and actions:** This table experience has a number of names for it. We often call it “Communion.” This indicates a sense of intimacy with each other. *Where am I on a spectrum of how I view our relationships in this group: “Intimacy is dangerous” versus “Intimacy is desirable?”*

Dangerous _____ Desirable
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