

Annual Business Meeting Saturday
The Table
02/25/23
Newport News

Introduction

-Some of the most **memorable stories** recorded for us in Scripture narrating Jesus' encounters with people were at, a table.

- **Matthew 26:7**

- Luke 11:37 (at a Pharisee's table)
- John 12:2 (woman anointing His feet, wiping with her hair)

-Some of the most **hopeful promises** recorded for us in Scripture declaring God's provision uses the imagery of, a table.

- **Proverbs 9:2**

- Psalm 23:5

-Some of the **urgent warnings** recorded for us in Scripture cautioning us about the allure of sin also use the imagery of, at table.

- **Psalm 69:22**

- 2 Chronicles 9:3-4 (Queen of Sheba)
- 1 Kings 18:19 (Baal prophets at Jezebel's table)

Our very nature longs for affirmation and acceptance and we will seek it out anywhere we can find it so let's make sure that people in the 757 can find it here...at our table!

Creating the Table

-Every person, no matter how old or young, wealthy or under-resourced, introvert or extravert, every Enneagram and Myers Briggs description, those who pull into Krispy Kreme for the hot sign and those who don't...every person is looking for A seat at A table!

-I am asking you to keep helping me build a different kind of church, a different kind of Jesus centered community that says to people, "There is a seat for you at our table!" (inclusive C. invitation vs. exclusive C. life...Jesus' example)

-(more thoughts about having a table that says “There is a seat for you...”)

January - Human trafficking prevention month
February - Black History month
March - Women's History month
April - Autism awareness month
May - Mental Health Awareness month
June - Juneteenth on June 19th
September - Hispanic Heritage month (9/15-10/15)
October - 10/11 is National Indigenous People Day (alternative to Columbus Day)
November - Veteran's Day; 11/1 is persecuted church day?
December - Mental health awareness month

-We aren't doing this to be contemporary or relevant...this is part of a strategic effort to say to our community, “**There is a seat for you at our table!**” (including your lament, your points of view, your unique needs...)

-(let's watch one for Black History month)

Seating the Table

-**The Not Yets** (focus on one chair)

- **John 6:44** (No one can come to me unless...)
- 1 Corinthians 12:3 (...call Jesus Lord but by the power...)
- 2 Peter 3:9 (...that none should perish)

-God is at work bringing every person to the revelation that they need the forgiveness only Jesus can offer.

-The **biggest mistake** is a focus on where they've been, who they are and where they go ... our “invitation” determines their “invitation” so will you be the draw from John 6:44? (draw or deterrent????)

-**The Family** (move to the next chair, focus on **RESEMBLING JESUS**)

- **John 1:12**
- 1 Corinthians 3:2 (milk and not meat, choke before chewing!)
- Hebrews 6:1-3 (there are fundamentals we must move past)

-God is at work bringing every person who has been born into the family of God to becoming more and more like Jesus. (refer back to exclusive...)

-The **biggest mistake** we can make is to get frustrated that they don't know which fork goes with the salad and which one goes with entrée! (joke about plastic sheets under the highchair)

(will we be as patient with people as Jesus is with us?)

-**The Mothers and Fathers** (move to the next chair) (GIVEAWAY!!!!)

- **1 Thessalonians 2:11**
- 1 Corinthians 4:15

-God is at work bringing every person at the table into a season of life where they are hosting more than they are attending.

-The **biggest mistake** we can make is to become complicit in people's eventual disillusionment with life at the table. (the joy of hosting)

Every Seat Shares...

-in the work of the table (serve here) (**"How can I help?"**)

-in the cost of the table (give here) (**"What can I bring?"**)

-in the hospitality of the table (welcome here) (**"How long have you...?"**)

Band/Keys

-**The Head of The Table** (the final chair)

-**Matthew 26:20, 26-27**

Close

-Every person, no matter how old or young, wealthy or under-resourced, introvert or extravert, every Enneagram and Myers Briggs, those who pull into Krispy Kreme for the hot sign and those who don't...every person is looking for a seat at a table!

*-I am asking you to help me build a different kind of church, a different kind of Jesus centered community that says to people, all kinds of people, **"There is a seat for you at our table!"***

