

# CITYWEST CHURCH

## 18.02.2024 -10 AM

### A TIMELINE OF TABLES.

When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.  
Romans 12:13 (NLT)

*The clearest symbol of the Christian faith is without a doubt the cross. Probably rightly so. But there is another picture throughout scripture that is present throughout the whole Bible that gives a clear picture. A practical action that is tangible something we can do and see in action that allows things to happen that are supernatural and that is sitting down at a table and sharing a meal.*

*The table and sharing a meal is sacramental in nature as it gives tangible action that leads to supernatural interaction.*

*A quick internet search and governments around the world have pages and pages of advice for families on how to eat a meal together regularly at home. There are budgets, meal plans and all the benefits of eating meals together at home.*

*As I mentioned last week, the word for table and reconciliation in Hebrew is the same.*

*Shulchan*

*It comes from the root word shul which means a meal*

*Shulchan is also the word for a lamb's skin, when the Israelites in Egypt shared a meal they used a lamb skin.*

*The last word from the root word Shul is Shalach which means to forgive, to take off weight.*

*Taking off weight and putting it on the table.*

*The table is the physical action that can lead to spiritual reconciliation.*

*Some examples through scripture:*

## 1. JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS.

The waiters served Joseph at his own table, and his brothers were served at a separate table. The Egyptians who ate with Joseph sat at their own table, because Egyptians despise Hebrews and refuse to eat with them. 33 Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement, he seated them according to age, from oldest to youngest. 34 And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the others. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

Genesis 43:32-34 (NLT)

*Joseph has his brothers back and the first thing they do is they come to the table and share a meal. Joseph is generous and welcomes them despite the huge separation and history.*

*To the Hebrew they would have seen the eating at the table the start of the reconciliation of brothers.*

*Remember the heart of Joseph is what has allowed this to take place.*

*He offered the table as reconciliation.*

## 2. PASSOVER

*Israel is called to share in a meal before leaving Egypt for the promised land. Jesus offers food to his disciples at Passover with Judas present.*

When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table<sup>[c]</sup> with the Twelve. **21** While they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

**22** Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one, Lord?"

**23** He replied, "One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me. **24** For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!"

**25** Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked, "Rabbi, am I the one?"

And Jesus told him, "You have said it."

**26** As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."

Matt 26:20-26 (NLT)

### 3. DAVID AND MEPHIBOSHETH

*Mephibosheth found himself with no table and David offered him a table. He came in fear of David because the custom is to wipe out the conquered king's family and leave no heir, David offers a seat at his table to Mephibosheth*

*David finds him in Lo-Debar which means no bread, no table.*

**9** Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. **10** You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master's household.<sup>[b]</sup> But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will eat here at my table." (Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

**11** Ziba replied, "Yes, my lord the king; I am your servant, and I will do all that you have commanded." And from that time on, Mephibosheth ate regularly at David's table,<sup>[c]</sup> like one of the king's own sons.

**12** Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. From then on, all the members of Ziba's household were Mephibosheth's servants. **13** And Mephibosheth, who was crippled in both feet, lived in Jerusalem and ate regularly at the king's table.

2 Samuel 9:9-13 (NLT)

### 4. PSALM 23

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

Psalms 23:5 (NLT)

*The picture here is not that you eat and your enemies starve. The picture is God prepares the opportunity for reconciliation in the midst of enemies.*

*To show the world the true meaning of peace.*

### 5. TAX COLLECTORS.

*The Pharisees couldn't get past the idea that Jesus ate with sinners, they couldn't see past the optics.*

*Jesus makes it clear to all the reason he is at the table:*

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. **11** But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"<sup>[c]</sup>

**12** When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” **13** Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’[d] For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Matt 9:10-13 (NLT)

## **6. JESUS COOKS BREAKFAST.**

*After abandoning Jesus in his greatest need Jesus response is to not bring it up cool a meal and say after all that's gone on do you still love me.*

“Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. **13** Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. **14** This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

**15** After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?[e]”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.”

“Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

John 21:12-15 (NLT)

## **7. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB**

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”

Revelation 19:9 (NLT)

*The final wedding feast where there will be no end to sitting around the table , all because of Jesus.*

### **CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:**

- 1. HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A TIME WHERE A TABLE BOUGHT RECONCILIATION?**
- 2. HOW DOES THE PICTURE OF THE TABLE IMPACT HOW YOU VIEW HOSPITALITY?**
- 3. DISCUSS WHAT A FAMILY MEAL IS LIKE IN YOUR HOUSE AND IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN MAKE IT A PLACE OF RECONCILIATION.**

