

Message Series: **The Invitation: what will you do with yours?**
Message Title: **Invited to Participation: You and the Three T's**
Scripture Source: **2 Samuel 9, Luke 15:1-2, and Acts 2:42-47**
Teacher: John Garner (1 of 2)
Date: Sunday, May 27, 2018 Anniversary Sunday

God's Relentless Pursuit: people, like you and me!

We have been learning from the Bible that God yearns to be in relationship with imperfect people like me and you. He wants us to flourish with spiritual and emotional health and be living with purpose and hope; helping others experience the same. God took the initiative to provide the basis for a restored relationship, the sacrificial death of Jesus and his triumphant resurrection. He intends that local churches who bear the name of Christ provide settings where experiencing God's grace, truth, love and power can actually happen...and it often begins and is sustained at...all sorts of tables!

Two Table Stories: 2 Samuel 9 and Luke 15:1-2

David and Mephibosheth: 2 unlikely table companions!

Background and an Unlikely Question: David is now king, Saul, his arch enemy is dead and David poses an unexpected question: 2 Samuel 9:1-3: *"Who can I show the kindness of God to?"* From a background of treachery, persecution and a deep personal loss, David wants to express in tangible ways, the love and care of God to...someone. He has 'table time' in mind.

An Unexpected Offer: 2 Samuel 9:3-7: This is really quite thought provoking. This young man is defined by a profound disability, "crippled in both feet." David exudes a hospital spirit meant to reassure the young man that he is wanted, he matters and a place at the table awaits him. A place setting with a name tag, correctly spelling his name! In ancient times, the table provide more than food. It offered friendship, protection and practical care and support. Application: God longs to be in relationship with you, to guide and provide for you along the way.

A Confused Response: 2 Samuel 9:8: Mephibosheth feels completely unworthy of the invitation to the table. He sees himself as broken beyond repair, as unable to contribute to anyone, anything of value. He genuinely regards himself as useless, a burden to any who come in contact with him.

Application: Do you ever feel broken beyond repair? Ever see yourself as so messed up that you are unworthy of love and care, from others, including God? God doesn't view you that way. There is a place at the table for you. You, being at the table, in relationship with God is far more important than what you bring...or can't bring to the table.

David's Actions and Mephibosheth's Experience: 2 Samuel 9:9-13

What a fantastic story of enriching table time involving 2 unlikely table companions. Mephibosheth is nourished and enjoys friendship at David's table. Application: We too can be spiritually and emotionally nourished and strengthened as we choose to say 'yes' to God's invitation to his table of grace and truth.

Table Builders Required: Luke 15:1-2

Jesus socialized with those who were demeaned and marginalized, especially by the religious elite. But someone created a table setting for Jesus to share life, grace and truth with all sorts of people. Will you be a 'table builder'? Will you ask God for the creativity, courage and compassion to build table times with a person, a couple, a family that needs to be invited into relationships, with God and others? Will you be mindful of the follower of Jesus who feels on the outside, looking in, for whatever reason?

What could that look like this summer? Will you ask God for wisdom as you create a table time? Here are some examples: a BBQ, a potluck, coffee time, shared lunch at work and now...who could you invite? Ask God to help you see the one who maybe just waiting to be invited to a table of some sort.

Message Series: **The Invitation: what will you do with yours?**

Message Title: **God's Word: The Text – A Meal and a Map**

Scripture Source: **2 Timothy 3:15-17; Acts 2:42**

Date: May 27, 2018

Teacher: John Garner

You are Invited...to engage in God's word, the Bible

The first church in Jerusalem received their foundational spiritual nourishment and direction from God's words. Acts 2:42 "The apostles' teaching". These believers took to heart the apostle's teaching regarding the source and power of God's word. Consider these 2 passages: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 *"And we thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."* Consider 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Illustrate: re: validation of the Bible as God's word. Check out Alpha and RZIM.

The Text: A Meal and a Map, for you and for our church

For 71 years RBC has sought with intentionality to be faithful in teaching God's word with accuracy and appropriate personal application. Scores of people have been led to understand their need of Jesus as Saviour and Lord. People have grown in faith, hope and love in large part by ongoing obedience to Scripture and trust in God's promises. This has occurred Sunday mornings and in many other settings, within the church walls and as importantly, in homes, workplaces, coffee shops and other social settings.

As we move forward, let us renew our resolve to place ourselves under the authority of God's word, and in so doing we will increasingly experience the potency of Scripture is feeding us and leading us, a meal and a map!

First, A Meal: a healthy meal satisfies, delights and nourishes us.

Consider these enriching and instructive words: *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth."* Psalm 119:103

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man that takes refuge in him." Psalm 34:8

"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

To be nourished by God's truth, we must ingest it, digest it and act upon it. Illustrate: gotta show up to the dinner table and eat the meal if it is to benefit us, the same is true of spiritual feeding.

Table time with God and others needs to involve ingesting and digesting God's word, personally and with others. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..."* Colossians 3:16

Set aside time to read thoughtfully God's word. A great passage to engage in is Psalm 119 in the Old Testament. Use tools such as Our Daily Bread.

Secondly, A Map: God's word can give us direction on how to think, live and relate. Again, if you want to discover this for the first time or yet another time, spend time in the Book of Proverbs. The practicality of God's word to everyday living and relationships is arresting and hope giving.

Listen to these words: *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word."* Psalm 119: 9...some other Psalm 119 instructional gems: *"I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every false path."* Vs. 104. *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."* Vs. 105. God invites you and me, and us to be a church engaged with his words of life.

Message Series: The Invitation: what will you do with yours?

Message Title: The Invitation to Take Up the Towel

Teacher: Stephen Mason

Date: Sunday, May 27, 2018 Anniversary Sunday

- I am pro-serving...but...
- Seemingly strange words – Luke 17:7-10
- “Suppose one of you...”
- “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.”
- Jesus called them all together. (Mark 10:42)
- “Not so with you.” (Mark 10:43)
- “...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (Mark 10:43)
- *“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”* John 13:12b-15
- Matthew 11:28-30
What do we learn from Jesus when we come to him and live in the yoke with him?
- Lord, as your servant, where/whom/how are you inviting me to serve?