

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

Message Title: **An Invitation to the Table**

Scripture Source: **Luke 22:14-20**

Date: Sunday, May 6, 2018

Teacher: John Garner

For Different Reasons

It may be an invitation to a wedding, a graduation, a retirement party...invitations come to mark all sorts of events, milestones or memorable moments.

Many of these 'invites' excite us and give us something to anticipate. Others, well we feel awkward and look for a way out, that doesn't hurt feelings! Not all invitations are created equal.

God's Invitational Heartbeat and Mindset

Throughout the Bible, the 'invitational instinct' of God can be noted and experienced. Consider what the word 'invite/invitation' means:

"to request the presence or participation of in a kindly, courteous, or complimentary way, to request to come or go to some place, gathering...to do something...'invitation...the act of inviting, such as an offer of entertainment or hospitality...root idea late 1500's 'to be pleasant toward'"

Joshua 1:1-9, an invitational directive to trust the love, wisdom, power and purposes of God.

Can you hear the compassionate longing of God in these insightful and invitational words, a timeless invitation that still is offered to people like you and me? And to people of every tribe and nation around the world.

It All Comes Down to Relationship: Luke 22:14-20

The evening Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, he hosted a meal of contemplation and remembrance. As Jewish men they remembered faithfully and repeatedly the Passover meal. They recounted amongst themselves the liberating work of God on behalf of the Jewish nation hundreds of years before. They remembered the need for salvation from the angel of death that came about through the shed blood of the sacrificial lamb. Exodus 12, a sobering, stirring and instructive story that rooted them relationally with God and each other.

And then, in a deeply personal and purposeful moment at the table, Jesus draws their wondering and anxious attention to himself. Luke 22:19-20. He invites his followers to think unhurriedly and purposefully about his sacrificial actions on their behalf. He directs them to consider the meaning of his body given up and shed blood, for them. Forgiveness of sins comes about through his substitutionary death on their behalf. "...do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

What Will You Do with this Invitation?

This may be new content for you. Will you explore the life and message of Jesus thoughtfully? Will you sit down with someone who has the knowledge and Christian experience to help you consider personally the invitation of Jesus, addressed to you? Will you pay attention to the soul stirrings that refuse to be wished away? God invites you to experience salvation from the penalty and power of sin.

What will you do with this invitation from God's heart to yours? Will you come clean and admit to God your need for forgiveness and your desire to be in relationship with him? Tell him.

As a follower of Jesus, will you see anew the longing of God to be in a growing, mutually responsive relationship with you? Will you insure that time reflecting upon the Scriptures and talking with God, listening to God is of a highest priority in your everyday life? If you feel stuck spiritually or disconnected from God, will you ask for help to move forward, with God? Is this the day, to come clean with God about attitudes or actions that grieve God, and hurts others and yourself? There is fresh forgiveness for you and me, today. 1 John 1:9

Will you see this Table, this Communion time, as God's compassionate invitation to you, to be in relationship with him? He yearns for you to do so.