

The Table of the Lamb

By Mariano Sennewald (*Passion for Jesus 2024*)

Translated/edited by: Ilse Marquez

Houses of Light Church

September 27, 2024

The table is a place of intimacy with the beloved and fellowship with our brothers and sisters. It is the place where we are called to grow in intimacy in community. At the table you become family/ community. It is where “we all” gaze at the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces and we are transformed “from one degree of glory to another.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Jesus' leadership takes us to the table.

He is the good shepherd (John 10 and Psalm 23) and His sheep hear his voice and follow Him. He *makes [us] lie down in green pastures. He leads [us] beside still waters, restores [our soul]...He prepares a table before [us]... “in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”*

Psalm 23:5

Did you know?

- Shepherds would pour oil on the heads of their sheep to keep the flies away. Flies were notorious for laying eggs in the nasal passages of the sheep and bringing with them all kinds of diseases and even blindness.
 - One of the names for Satan is Beelzebub, which means “Lord of the flies”
 - **At the table God pours oil on us to keep away the attacks of the enemy.**

More on the significance of the table throughout the Bible:

The table is not a place to visit, but a place to remain. It is not enough to sit here once a week, we need to live at this spiritual table.

- When God is about to release powerful movements on the earth, He calls His followers to sit at His table.
 - **The first passover:** Before He delivered them from Egypt, God called His people to a **table** to eat a lamb as a family. (Passover means “to pass over” — curses “pass over” those who are seated at the table). **At the table God's people experience freedom.**
 - **With His disciples:** Jesus celebrated Passover with His followers at the table, where He prepared them for what was about to happen (his death, resurrection, and the advancement of the gospel). **At the table God's people are equipped to fulfill the Great Commission.**
 - Today, **between the first coming and His return**, the church has to remain at the table, celebrating the Lord's supper in remembrance of what He did, proclaiming His return! **At the table, His words cause our hearts to burn so we can remain until the end.** (After the resurrection, the ones at the table are the ones who see Him and burn again! - the disciples on the road to Emmaus)
 - **In His second coming:** Jesus honors us at a great table with people of every tongue, tribe, and nation. **At the table Jesus will be our reward in His return.**

Luke 22:29-30 “and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Luke 12:37 “Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.”

There are 3 invitations the Lord is making now:

1. Remain at the table: The purpose of temptation is to make you leave the table — following temporary pleasures removes you from the table. Temporary pleasures can have lasting consequences.

John 13:2 *“During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him...”* — you can physically be at the table, but your heart could be far from there

- What could make you want to leave the table? It could be a desire to be somewhere else, or maybe a wound you cannot forgive, frustration, disappointment — these things tell us we are better off somewhere else, but the truth is this is where you belong! Don't leave the table!
 - Jesus doesn't give up on us — even if we are thinking about leaving the table. On that night, Jesus rose from the table to wash his friends' feet:

John 13:3-5 *“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”*

- This means:
 - Jesus washed the feet of the one who would betray him (Judas)
 - He washed the feet of the one who would deny him (Peter)
 - He washed the feet of the one who would not believe (Thomas)
 - He washed the feet of those who wouldn't be able to keep watch and pray for him in the hardest moment of his life (John, James, and Peter)
 - He washed the feet of those who wouldn't be there for his crucifixion (most of the disciples)
- This shows that he continues to choose the imperfect ones who make mistakes. He wins them over with his love and delights in calling them his disciples. Jesus knows we are going to fail, and yet, He washes our feet, loves us without conditions, and refuses to give up on us.

Don't leave the table, and if you did, come back!

2. Leave other tables! In the Bible, we see other tables where the people of God are tempted to sit time and time again. You cannot sit at the wrong table without eating the wrong food and drinking the wrong drink. The Bible calls these the tables of demons.

1 Corinthians 10:21 *“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons”*

- Other examples:
 - The table of Nebuchadnezzar: **Daniel 1:8** *“But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.”*
 - The table of Balaam: **Revelation 2:14** *“But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.”*
 - The table of fortune/wealth: What the world calls prosperity — chasing after material blessings.

Isaiah 65:11 *“But you who forsake the Lord, who forget my holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny...”*

We cannot sit at multiple tables at once — reflect for a moment: where have we been sitting? Where do we want to be?

3. Prepare a table for Him! Flip the other tables, and come prepare one with Him and for Him!

Mark 14:12-15 *“And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” 13 And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet*

you. Follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15 And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us."

- Two questions:
 - Where will you have us go and prepare a table for you?
 - Where is my guest room, where I may eat with my disciples?
- He invites us into a conversation where we can partner with Him to set the table — that's what family does.

Isaiah 66:1-2 "Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? 2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

- The Lord is looking for a place to rest, a table where He can sit, friends with whom he can converse.
- Even though He prepares a table for us, as we get to know Him our response is to set a table for Him!
 - David understood this, and longed to build a resting place for the Lord — **Psalm 132:3-5**, "I will not enter my house or get into my bed, 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, 5 until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
 - Every table where He sits, He becomes the guest of honor and the host— we get to share in friendship with Him and our fellow brothers and sisters: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." **Revelation 3:20**

How do we host him? **We lay down agendas and pretenses, and love Him extravagantly — We let Him be the center and receive Him in a way that moves His heart:**

"Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." **Luke 7:44-50**

Reflection Questions:

1. **Have you been tempted to leave the table? What are the things that have tried to pull you away?**
2. **What role has hurt played in whether or not you stay at the table? What would it look like to start doing the work of forgiveness and healing in those areas of your heart?**
3. **Jesus hasn't given up on you, in fact He has chosen to wash your feet even in the midst of your darkest failure — how do you want to respond to this kind of love?**

Announcements:

1. Ministry Night is this Thursday at 7:00 P.M, See you there!
2. October 31st, we have a family festival called Hallelujah Night! We need candy donations and volunteers to help us! If you'd like to join the team, talk to our kid's ministry leaders and/or bring a bag of candy to our next service!
3. If you need more information about anything our website is now available in English at: housesoflight.church!