

Sermon Notes



“Common Table”
September 23rd, 2018

While we deeply value our time on Sunday mornings, we recognize that unless we are spending intentional time with God and others throughout the week, we are not living out our full potential as disciples. This sheet aims to provide you with enough content connected to the central themes of the sermon to be engaged beyond Sundays. We believe a disciple of Jesus is one who is individually, communally, sacrificially, and missionally engaged in his or her faith. If you need assistance in getting plugged into a group or have further questions about the discipleship process, please reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Mike Barnes or Pastor Pete.

Reflection Questions (please use these individually or in groups)

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you want God to add to the number of those being saved in our day?
2. Do you want disciples of Jesus to enjoy the favor of all the people in our day?
3. Do you want God to fill us with awe and wonder as we more deeply realize his presence and power in our day?
4. Ask God to examine your heart and life in order to reveal to you where, when and how you are attending to the Common Table of discipleship.

Additional Questions:

5. Are you allowing yourself to be surrounded by people who think differently from you? Are you open to listening to them?
6. How might being surrounded by a consistent community (common table) be beneficial in times of need? Do you think a support system would be valuable in your life?
7. What would it be like for you to have a safe place to “doubt” and ask questions? Jesus created this kind of community for his followers. Can we do the same?

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **Luke 22:7-38** | What are some of the ways you try to make yourself the greatest or elevate others (leaders, celebrities, etc.) as the greatest? What would it look like to see everyone on the same level as image bearers of God?
- **John 20:1-31** | Have you ever been in a situation like Thomas where, despite all that you've seen and heard, you struggled to believe? This is normal. Look for someone or a small group of people to process through these doubts.
- **Matthew 28:1-20** | When we are going through struggles or fears, God makes his presence known to us. When folks are fearful throughout scripture, God always says “fear not.” Are you willing to be vulnerable in your fears with others?
- **Acts 2:42-47** | What would it look like in your life to have this kind of community?

Self-Care Disciplines *Excerpts from Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline** September Discipline: Meditation | Creation Meditation (p.31)

This week's form of meditation is focused on creation. Now, this is no infantile pantheism, but a majestic monotheism in which the great Creator of the universe shows us something of his glory through his creation. The heavens do indeed declare the glory of God and the firmament does show forth his handiwork (Ps. 19:1). Evelyn Underhill recommends, “begin with that first form of contemplation which the old mystics sometimes called ‘the discovery of God in his creatures.’”

So give your attention to the created order. Look at the trees, really look at them. Take a flower and allow its beauty and symmetry to sink deep into your mind and heart. Listen to the birds - they are the messengers of God. Watch the little creatures that creep upon the earth. These are humble acts, to be sure, but sometimes God reaches us profoundly in these simple ways if we will quiet ourselves to listen.