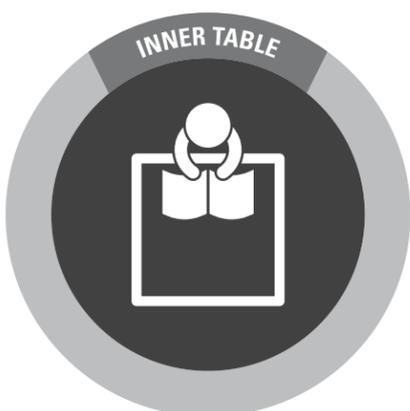


Sermon Notes

“Whatever is Pure”
February 10th, 2019



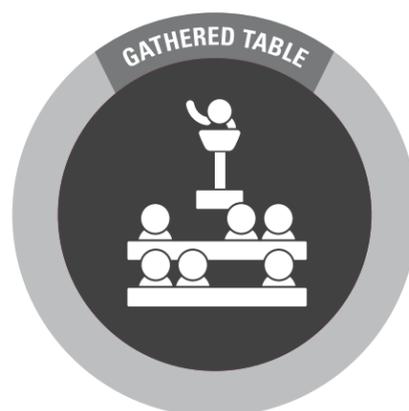
**First
Friends**
Church



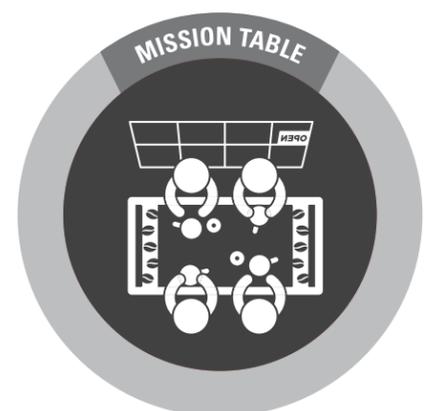
Seeking God
in Solitude



Finding God
in Friendship



Celebrating God
in Community



Reflecting God
in Relationships

Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

Sermon Questions:

1. How are the boundaries in your life between your experiences “in the world” and your points of influence? Are there hints of selfishness or idolatry that need to be addressed?
2. How can we better serve those who are marginalized, voiceless, or powerless in our world today?
3. If you had to give yourself a “relational holiness score” for this last week, what would it be? How can you improve?
4. Pray that the Lord would continue to transform you so that you would see, hear, and feel the Holy Spirit moving through you for the Kingdom of God.

Additional Questions:

5. If you were to look at the *personal* holiness in your life, what is one area that you can celebrate because of faithfulness and what is one area that can be improved upon?
6. If you were to look at the *relational* holiness in your life, what is one area that you can celebrate because of faithfulness and what is one area that can be improved upon?

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **James 1:26-27** | How might you have a better tongue towards others as you live in the world but not of the world? Hint: This passage is primarily referring to how we talk to and about one another more than it is about “not swearing.”
- **Mark 12:28-34** | Are there any “rituals” or “burnt offerings” that you place above loving your neighbors? Why do you think you hold so tightly to these things?
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** | Are there any characteristics here that are not reflected in your own life? Ask the Spirit to mold you into a person who has the capacity to love your neighbor more deeply and fiercely than ever before.
- **Romans 12:1-2** | What can you do this week to be “set apart” from the world and its influences so that your mind might be renewed?

Self-Care Disciplines *(Excerpts from Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster)*

February Discipline: Solitude & Silence | A Quiet Place (p.106)

The discipline of silence and solitude are interwoven into the DNA of a Christian person. We rely on them like one relies on food or water. Perhaps this is why so many folks feel spiritually malnourished or dehydrated because they are not opening themselves up to silence and solitude. Solitude is not simply the absence of noise but the absence of distraction. Whenever we are able to sit and rest in the presence of God, our eyes are opened in ways that we wouldn't have imagined before.

One thing you can do is try to establish a “quiet place” or several quiet places. The idea being that these places become *set apart* from your everyday life of noise and busyness. It is here that you can come to pray, find rest, and seek the peace of God. This space can be inside or outside your home. It can even be in the church building. Be creative. While here, you don't need to have an agenda, simply enter the space to be alone with God. Bring your full self into your quiet place and wait for the Spirit to move in you. God is not going to force himself into our lives. If we choose busyness and distraction, he will allow us to have it. But if we make ourselves available to God, he will be ready and move in us.