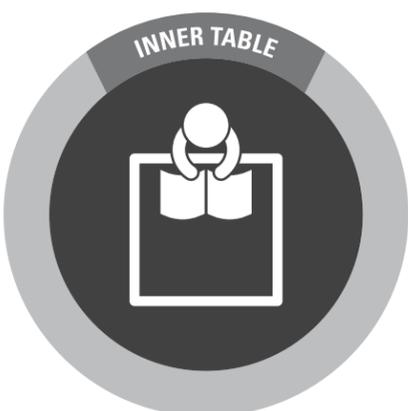


Sermon Notes

“Burning Anger”
May 19th, 2019

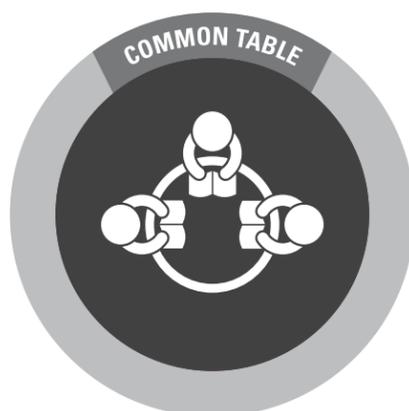


**First
Friends**
Church



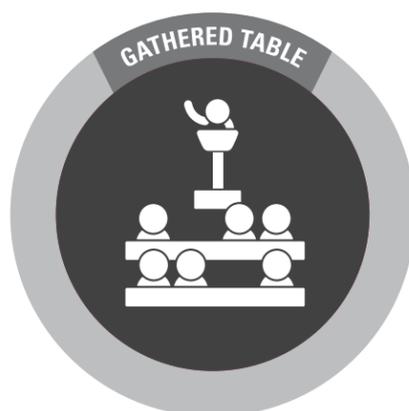
INNER TABLE

Seeking God
in Solitude



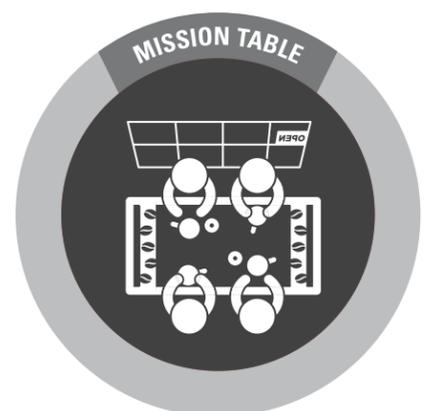
COMMON TABLE

Finding God
in Friendship



GATHERED TABLE

Celebrating God
in Community



MISSION TABLE

Reflecting God
in Relationships

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

Sermon Questions:

1. How often does our anger get activated for reasons that are unmerited? Does your anger even cloud the expansion of God's mercy?
2. Is there a person or group of people that you've written off as "too far gone" to hear and accept God's invitation of repentance?
3. How highly do you value your own comfort? How do you respond when your comfort level is threatened?
4. Thank God for the "heroic" act of the incarnation of Jesus--the one who set aside his royal robes, sat in the dust of humanity, and calls us to repentance.

Additional Questions:

5. Do you think it is normal for people to easily accept forgiveness for themselves but to raise the standard for others? Why do we sometimes get offended when God's mercy is being shown toward others?
6. Survey whom you might consider to be an "enemy" of God. What would be your response if they were offered the same type of forgiveness you have received? Would you be joyful? Sad? Angry?

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **Jonah 4:1-11** | This is a classic example of how one man trusted in his form of judgment over God's. How might you exercise less judgment toward those you disagree with and instead relent with mercy?
- **1 Timothy 1:12-14** | Is it possible that those whom we label as "unworthy" might have the potential to be some of the best kingdom workers out there? Think of Paul and his transformation.
- **Exodus 34:1-28** | Is it possible that God is more forgiving and gracious than you can ever imagine? Are you okay with this?
- **Matthew 4:17** | Jesus calls each of us to repent. Do you practice daily repentance? Remember, repentance is not about judgment but about transformation.

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

May Discipline: Essentials for Confession | "Avoiding Sin" (p.145, 152-153)

Confession is a difficult discipline for us because we all too often view the believing community as a fellowship of saints before we see it as a fellowship of sinners. We feel that everyone else has advanced so far into holiness that we are isolated and alone in our sin. We cannot bear to reveal our failures to others. We imagine that we are the only ones who have not stepped onto the high road to heaven. Therefore, we hide ourselves. The third essential is a "determination to avoid sin." In the discipline of confession we ask God to give us a yearning for holy living, a hatred for unholy living. It is the *will* to be delivered from sin that we seek from God as we prepare to make confession. We must desire to be ruled by God, or if we do not desire it, to desire to desire it. Such a desire is a gracious gift from God. The seeking of this gift is one of the preliminaries for confessing to a brother or sister.

If this seems overwhelming, remember the heart of God, he is like a shepherd who will risk anything to find that one lost sheep. We do not have to make God willing to forgive. In fact, it is God who is working to make us willing to seek his forgiveness.

Note: Don't let these burden you each week. Please engage only if you feel it would be beneficial in caring for yourself. Sometimes self-care involves giving yourself a break, even from self care disciplines.