

Surprise the World

MESSAGE NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 3 – EAT: THE SECOND HABIT

⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

– Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

– Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

LEVERAGING MEALS TO SURPRISE THE WORLD

- Open tables can serve as the _____ to _____ closed _____
- No _____ is worth _____ the opportunity to demonstrate _____ to another person
- _____ an _____ to those who are often _____

¹²Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

– Luke 14:12-14 (NIV)

- Do not fear _____ by _____

³⁴The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” ³⁵But wisdom is proved right by all her children.

– Luke 7:34-35 (NIV)

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Why were Jesus’ meal habits so surprising to the religious leaders of his day?
2. **Read Hosea 6:6 and Matthew 9:12-13.** In what way did the Pharisees miss the point of what God desired from his people?
3. How can sharing a meal with someone break down barriers to the Good News of Jesus?
4. How can we mistakenly value making sacrifices to God as being more important than people?
5. Why do we often neglect to invite those who are often excluded from sharing our tables?
6. How did the Pharisees try to use guilt by association to trap Jesus?
7. What can Jesus’ response teach us about eating with people who are nothing like us?
8. Who are some people that would be surprised to receive an invitation to eat with you?
9. How can you leverage meals to surprise the world?
10. What is keeping you from doing so?