

Mark 14. 12-26

Come to the Table

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David Wells

Jesus gathers his disciples at the table for one final meal before the cross. At it he will “download” everything he wants them to remember. The other gospel’s tell us he speaks of togetherness and love. John tells us he washes the disciple’s feet. The table Jesus sits at reflects Mark’s theme throughout the book – Jesus invites all people to himself, to rally around him, welcomed back into the human Family.

This table:

- Is inclusive. Men, women, all ethnicities, all backgrounds are welcome. This has been the message from the start.
- In Matthew 22 Jesus tells a story (and he told many similar ones) of a banquet, where a king invites people to his table. He wants to welcome a family.
- Amongst those who are welcome:
 - Both men and women.
 - All ethnicities.
 - All different giftings (not to “lord” it over one another, above and apart, but to serve along and within).
- At this table there will be hard times! But diversity does not have to mean division.

Discussion Questions

- What memories do you have of a family table?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to share his story and this moment before the cross with his disciples?
- Why do we crave family and belonging?
- What are some ways it is challenging to be “at the table” as a Christian family? What are some issues we wrestle with?
- What have you seen that inspires you about being at the table as a Christian, in a diverse community?