

Invitation to Belong at God's Family Table

Pastor Renee Clark • July 5, 2026

Bible Text(s) Used

2 Samuel 9; Ephesians 2:4–6ⁱⁱ; Luke 14:15–24ⁱⁱⁱ; Luke 22:29–30^{iv}. Additional background: 1 Samuel 16; Romans 3:23^v; Romans 6:23^{vi}; Matthew 28:19^{vii}.

Summary of Each Main Point

1. The family table is a picture of God's welcome.

Pastor Renee began with the simple picture of a family table. Around a table, people talk, remember, pray, forgive, laugh, take communion, and share life. The table becomes more than furniture; it becomes a place of belonging. Scripture uses that same picture again and again: Passover in the Old Testament, communion in the New Testament, and Jesus eating with people others often pushed away. The heart of the message is that God is not merely offering information about Himself. He is inviting people into His family, to sit near Him, receive His kindness, and find a place prepared by grace.

Reflection / Discussion: Where have you experienced the table as a place of connection, healing, or welcome?

Notes: _____

2. Mephibosheth reminds us that life often does not go as planned.

The sermon turned to David, Saul, Jonathan, and Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. David had been overlooked by his family, chased by Saul, and forced to wait on God's timing. Mephibosheth also knew sorrow. As a child, he lost his father and grandfather in one day and became lame after being dropped while others were fleeing danger. He ended up in Lo Debar, a place associated with emptiness, no pasture, and no sense of worth. His story speaks to every person whose life has carried disappointment, loss, betrayal, or a wound that still feels visible.

Reflection / Discussion: What part of Mephibosheth's story helps you name your own need for God's kindness?

Notes: _____

3. The good king seeks out the forgotten and shows undeserved kindness.

David asked whether anyone from Saul's house remained so he could show "the kindness of God." In the ancient world, a king might eliminate a rival family, but David did the opposite. He brought Mephibosheth near, restored what had been lost, and gave him a permanent place at the royal table. This points us to Jesus Christ, the greater King, who came to seek and save the lost. Grace means God's undeserved favor: His love and mercy given not because we have earned it, but because of what Christ has done. God does not call us from Lo Debar to shame us. He calls us home to bless us.

Reflection / Discussion: How does it change your view of God to see Him as the King who seeks you out to bless you?

Notes: _____

4. At the King's table, our position in Christ covers our condition.

One of the sermon's most tender images was Mephibosheth seated at the table. Beneath the table, his lameness was hidden. At the table, he was simply one of the king's family. That does not mean our wounds never happened; it means our past no longer has authority to define our future. In Christ, believers are adopted into God's family. Adoption means God receives us as His own sons and daughters, giving us a new name, a new home, and a new inheritance. Ephesians 2 says that even when we were dead in sin, God made us alive with Christ and seated us with Him in heavenly places.

Reflection / Discussion: What "condition" or past wound do you need to place under the covering of your position in Christ?

Notes: _____

5. The invitation must be received with humility, and then extended to others.

The way to the table is not pride, effort, appearance, health, money, or religious performance. The way is humility: admitting we cannot save ourselves and trusting Jesus more than anything else. To "sit down" is to accept the invitation by faith. Luke 14 shows a great supper where many made excuses, but the master still wanted the house full. Luke 22 promises a place at the kingdom table. Once we have received that mercy, we become ambassadors who go to the highways and hedges, inviting others to come in. The family table of God still has room.

Reflection / Discussion: Who is one person you can lovingly invite toward the table of God's grace?

Notes: _____

Closing Thought

The gospel is not about forgotten people working their way into a palace. It is about a gracious King who sends for the broken, restores the undeserving, and says, "Do not fear." In Jesus, the table is set, the invitation is real, and a place has been prepared. Today can be someone's last day in Lo Debar. Come humbly, sit down by faith, and then go invite others to the family table.

ii

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

iii

Luke 14:15-24

When one of those who sat at the table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is he who will feast in God's Kingdom!" But he said to him, "A certain man made a great supper, and he invited many people. He sent out his servant at supper time to tell those who were invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' They all as one began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go try them out. Please have me excused.' Another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I can't come.' That servant came and told his lord these things. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor, maimed, blind, and lame.' The servant

said, ‘Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room.’ The lord said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those men who were invited will taste of my supper.’”

iv

Luke 22:29–30

I confer on you a kingdom, even as my Father conferred on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. You will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

v

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

vii

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”