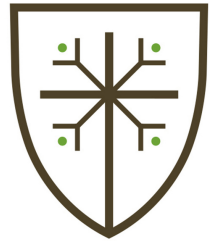


Hospitality Eternity Worship Mission

ESSENTIAL EMPHASES

FALL SERMON SERIES

SERMON NOTES



October 30, 2022

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Essential Emphases: Hospitality

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Genesis 1:1-3, 2:15-17

1 John 2:15-17

Luke 14:12-24

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God's first words to man are essentially "take and eat." How does the "taking and eating" that happened in the fall differ from this command?
2. What are some excuses that we use today to avoid the invitation of the Host?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This Sunday, Tim began a new sermon series on four essential emphases of the Church, beginning with hospitality. He began by pointing out that man, made in the image of God, is a being made for community and companionship. Our culture is in the midst of an epidemic of loneliness. A recent study showed that over 60% of young adults identify as lonely. What can the church do in light of this? The church practices a biblical hospitality based on the fundamental image of God as exquisite host.

In our Gospel reading, Luke tells the story of Jesus invited to a banquet and at the banquet he tells the host "you invited all the wrong people." He takes the opportunity for a parable. He begins by saying "a man once gave a great banquet and invited many." This is a description of God. God is an unimaginably hospitable host. The very act of creation itself is an active invitation to be a part of God's house and feast at his table.

It is common today to see God as a healer. Many people come to church because of what God can do for them. And they leave a church because it is not "meeting their needs." Seeing God as healer puts an emphasis on what God can do for me. It's all about me. But when we see God as host, the emphasis changes. We begin to come to church for someone other than ourselves. We come to be near God, near other people. The presence of God becomes more than obligatory, it becomes intoxicating.

There are three characters in Jesus' story- the host, the guests, and the servant. The servant goes between the host and the guests. The servants are agents of God's hospitable invitation. We are called to be the servant. But, as we looked at in 1 John, we're also warned not to let the desires, the cravings of the world become our cravings. That is what makes the call of servant so difficult. And also, why we cannot do it on our own. The ordinary things of life distract, and become, like the guests in the parable, excuses for staying away. We are not first and foremost the servant, Jesus is. We put the servant of the cross to keep from coming to the host. He broke the-power of excuses in that we could go out and invite others in. That is our calling. To follow Jesus as servant and go out to the broken, the blind, the lame of the world and invite them to the feast just as God first invited us.