

Fellowship Dallas  
Building Tables  
July 16, 2023

## **Rewind & Reflect #1: God Builds Table Moments (8 minutes)**

**(Caleb)** Good morning, my name is Caleb Panter, and I am one of the pastors of Fellowship where we are calling each other to live out our God given purpose in Christ every day.

Over the past five weeks we have had the opportunity to hear from God through His Word and through stories. In the three main stories from God's Word, we have interacted with so far in this series we can see that there is a difference in living on purpose every day and living out a "God-given purpose" – "In Christ" - every day. Truly knowing God's heart, turning our heart to align with His, and allowing Him to change the way our heart sees others – is the only way we can live out HIS purpose IN his strength every day. Living His purpose sets the table for others to be welcomed in.

**(Kelly)** Good morning, my name is Kelly Hornsby, and I am also one of the pastors at Fellowship. Before Caleb wraps up the Building Tables series next Sunday, we want to invite you to pause, listen, see, and hear from God... through His Word being spoken over you, through moments of listening to the Lord in reflection and through worship as we remind ourselves who God is and of how He has invited us... all of us... to His table. He has invited the outcast, the hurting, women, men, young and old, learned, left behind, broken, and unexpected. He invites those of us who are proud, those who place themselves at the head of the table, those who secretly think it will mess things up if we open the table to "them". Amazingly, He invites all of us to the Table AND graciously invites us to build tables with Him... He allows us to be part of His loving, welcoming, healing, and reconciling work.

### **God Builds Table Moments (on the screen)**

In Acts 10, Peter was doing a lot for the Lord. He was ON MISSION and God pulled him aside to do a new thing IN him. We learned a few weeks ago, that what God does IN you is more important than what God does THROUGH you. God creates Grace-filled encounters to build on earth what exists in Heaven and transform us into the image of Jesus. Look with us at Acts 10, starting with verse 1.

**(Caleb reads) Acts 10:1-18, 24-29 (NIV) (scripture on the screen)**

**At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-**

fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

<sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

<sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. <sup>8</sup> He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup> About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

<sup>14</sup> "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

<sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

<sup>17</sup> While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. <sup>18</sup> They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

In obedience, Peter goes with them to see Cornelius

<sup>27</sup> ... Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

**(Kelly)** Peter goes on to declare the good news clearly and the Holy Spirit comes to this Gentile brother and all those in his house. Neither Peter nor Cornelius would have come to the table on their own. They would not have shared a table. They were working hard for God in their own ways, but God was going to build His kingdom by building a shared table and transforming Peter and Cornelius from the inside out. Once Peter came to Cornelius' Table, he was able to invite him to the Table of the Lord. We too are invited to be changed at the table.

As the music plays over you, ask God if the following is true of you. If not, ask him to initiate a Grace-filled encounter with you in this moment.

**(Statements on the screen)**

- I have a posture of "Yes" towards the Lord as He does work IN me. I am willing to patiently stay at His Table... as he makes me, molds me, changes me and guides me toward what He wants to do THROUGH me.
- In humility I can pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done **at this table** as it is in heaven;" asking God to change my heart when His will looks different than my own.

## **Rewind & Reflect #2: Jesus prepares an intimate place at the table for "the other." (6 minutes)**

**(Caleb)** Jesus prepares an intimate place at the table for "the other." **(on the screen)**

Jesus, Simon, and a woman... just the way each person is addressed in this story, we know who "the other" was. The dinner was taking place at Simon's home, but Jesus was the one who prepared an intimate place at the table for "the other" as she also showed kindness and hospitality to Him. Look with me at Luke 7:36-50

**Luke 7: 36-50 (NIV)** **(scripture on screen)**

**<sup>36</sup> When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup> A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. <sup>38</sup> As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.**

**39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."**

**40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."**

**"Tell me, teacher," he said.**

**41 "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,<sup>[a]</sup> and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"**

**43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."**

**"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.**

**44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."**

**48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."**

**49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"**

**50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."**

Simon didn't like it... HIS table was a show place, a place to debate, a place to perform, to exert his position and exclude the "sinner" all in his mind in the name of God.

Jesus sees Simon and Jesus sees the woman... HIS table is one of invitation, forgiveness, seeing past the appearance or position to the heart, it is a place to exert grace and welcome those who are sinners.

**(Kelly)** As the music plays over you, ask God to search your heart and show you how to prepare an intimate place at the table for "the other" in your life.

**(Questions on the Screen)**

- Is my table more like Simon's or Jesus'? Really?
- What would it look like for me to boldly show hospitality, even when I feel like "the other"?
- Do you feel like you are "the other"? Jesus is inviting you into relationship, into the family, to live and be welcome at His Table. Accept His invitation.

### **Rewind & Reflect #3: Won't you love your neighbor? (4 minutes)**

**(Kelly) Won't you love your neighbor? (on the screen)**

We live in a messed-up world where we justify our messed-up hearts by knowing all the right answers. We want to be shown mercy and be invited, but don't always show it ourselves by inviting those who we would rather not be our neighbor to our Table, which makes it difficult for us to invite them to the Table of God. Look at Luke 10:25-37 with me.

**Luke 10:25-37 (NIV) this is corrected from the original I sent!**

**<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"**

**<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"**

**<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'<sup>[a]</sup>; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>[b]</sup>"**

**<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."**

**<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"**

**<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his**

own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[c]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

**Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."**

The expert in the law had all the right answers and was looking for justification but Jesus knew his prejudice, his pride and those who he did not want to be the hero of the story or be counted as the neighbor he was called to love as himself. The one who actually cared for "the Jewish insider in the story" was the unexpected one, the one he may not have accepted it from had he been aware, the person of peace that no one expected – The Samaritan

**(Caleb)** As the music plays over you, ask God to speak as you reflect on the questions on your screen.

**You are also invited to pick up a set of question cards to use around your table as you build tables with your family and with your neighbor. These will be available at the connecting center after the service.**

(Questions on the screen)

- Who is your Samaritan? Who would you not want the hero of the story to be? Ask God to soften your heart and allow you to be willing to see them as your neighbor and welcome them to your Table.
- Ask God to show you where you have the right answers, but your heart does not follow? Offer your heart to Him to be changed and ask that your actions follow.

## **Intro to Communion & Communion:**

### **(Kelly) Intro to Communion**

As we prepare our hearts for communion. Let us remember that Jesus did not initiate this reminder of his body and blood around a table on accident. He knew it was where time would be spent daily, where we would be face to face with one another, a place that called for hospitality, invitation, provision, sharing of stories, life, and being filled.

He was inviting us to come to the Table, to experience all this and more at our earthly tables as we remember Him and to partner with Him in inviting others to the Table he is building for eternity!

If you want to know more about this invitation to forgiveness and welcome into a relationship with Jesus, please visit one of the prayer rooms between the Worship Center Doors right outside after the service and talk to one of our prayer partners.

If you have not received the elements, there is more in the front and back of the worship center.

(song)

### **(Caleb) Communion**

I want to welcome you to the table of the Lord...

- The Table that He builds and invites us to experience Grace-filled encounters around.
- The Table that calls us to love our enemies and lay down our preferences and pride to make room for the other.
- The Table you are invited to with an intimate invitation to forgiveness and relationship no matter who you are – and you will be shown mercy.

### **I Corinthians 11: 23-26**

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

- **The body of Christ.**

25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- **The blood of Christ.**

Prayer