

Fellowship Dallas
Building Tables
June 25th & July 2nd
Acts 10:1-16 NASB

Sermon: The True Table Builder

ME/INTRO

- Gratitude & Prayer
- Lori and I have fumbled our way into a life of 'Building Tables' / of Radical Hospitality / of Incarnational Living for 12 years. We've learned a few lessons along the way.
- Thomas Moton: What God does ***IN YOU*** is more important than what God does ***THROUGH YOU***. What is God doing in you, Thad?"

WE

- May I ask...What's God doing in you? Paul says "It is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil 2). How is God working in you? If you're like me...most of my life, you probably don't have a clue! Some of us have just never been taught how to discern His work in us. Some of us are too successful to know....too busy....too distracted by the noise of our culture.
- What our neighbors need from us – is not great programming or flawless preaching or phenomenal church facilities or perfectly moral Jesus-followers.
- Our neighbors need to be known and loved by people who are aware of and responding to the ways God is at work in them.

Transition

- The question today is what is God doing ***IN US?***
- God was doing amazing things THROUGH Peter in the first 9 chapters of Acts. He preached to thousands and thousands were baptized. He healed a lame man. He raised the dead! He was the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. But God wanted to do a new thing ***IN*** Peter. This new thing would ultimately impact billions of people, including you and me.

GOD: The True Table Builder

Big Idea: God initiates grace-filled encounters to build on Earth what exists in Heaven & to transform us into the image of Jesus!

1. God Initiates Grace-Filled Encounters. Read 10:1-6 & Overview

1. Explain:

- a. Cornelius: incapable of his own salvation. He was building a life of religious works. He was unaware he needed Jesus. God was pursuing him and loving him for his ultimate good!
 - b. Peter: incapable of obeying God. His own religious works prohibited him from engaging Cornelius...much more obeying God.
 - c. God builds table moments. B/C we can't. Grace: God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
2. Illustrate: The Ranch
 3. Apply: God is really good at saving the world. I'm not. We ought to let Him.

2. WHY #1: To Build on Earth what Exists in Heaven. Read 10:11-13

1. Explain:
 - a. V.11-13 God saying to Peter "This is My heavenly table; let's do this on earth, Peter"
 - b. Table of Tables (2) – The Wedding Supper of the Lamb & The Lord's Supper – models for our tables.
 - c. Building Tables *is* Kingdom Building.
2. Illustrate:
 - a. Andy & Gabi Moran Holiday Meals. Their guests.
3. Apply:
 - a. Pray at your meal times this week, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done **at this table** as it is in heaven."

3. WHY #2: To Transform Us into the Image of Jesus. Read 10:14-16

1. Explain: **We see (3) marks of our transformation into Jesus' image.**
 - a. **1st - Posture of "Yes"** V.14 "*By no means Lord, I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.*" Peter's emphatic "NO" reveals there's an 'old man' still alive in Peter.
 - i. Illustrate:
 1. Mary, Zacchaeus, Jesus
 - b. **2nd – Sanctified Vision** V.15 "*What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy*". 2 Corinthians 5:16
 - i. Illustrate:
 1. Artists: Tim Noble & Sue Webster (Shadow Art).
God takes the broken pieces of our lives and fashions them in such a way that when His light

shines onto us and others, we see His glorious image in others and ourselves.

ii. Apply:

1. Ask God to help you see others the way He sees them.

c. **3rd – Humility by Grace** V.16 **Three times**. Peter, remember the grace lavished upon you. (Jn 21).

i. Illustrate:

1. Story: Remember your story...the grace He's lavished on you.

So, what is God doing ***IN YOU?***

The Big Idea: God initiates grace-filled encounters to build on Earth what exists in Heaven & to transform us into the image of Jesus!

b. YOU: “Get In” / Trusting God means...

1. Slow Down & Pay Attention.
2. Say “Yes”
 1. Listen to your excuses – what do they reveal about you?
 2. Move toward people.

c. WE/Conclusion:

1. Story: Kevon. Building Tables will make a difference in someone's life – especially yours.
2. The Gospel: Let's come to the Table of Tables and remember the one who came to earth...who moved towards us; and said 'yes' ***for us*** by dying in our place and 'yes' ***to us*** by adopting us into His family.

Communion Transition: You're invited to the Lord's Table. While Noah sings, turn your hearts' gaze toward Christ.

Song

Communion Elements: You're invited to the Lord's Table. Supper is ready. Take the Bread-His body was broken for you. Let's eat in remembrance. Take the Cup-His blood shed by the brutality of men and the gruesomeness of our sin. Let's drink in remembrance.

Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21

Thad Dismiss.