

## Summary

This sermon explores the Last Supper from Mark 14, examining the seating arrangement around the triclinium table and what each position represents spiritually. Pastor Chris explains how each disciple's seat had significance: John in the place of love and closeness to Jesus, Jesus himself in the position of servant-leader, the other disciples in seats of selfishness arguing about greatness, Judas in the honored guest position despite his betrayal, and Peter in the servant's seat learning humility. The message challenges listeners to examine where they would sit at the table - are they close to Jesus like John, serving like Christ, focused on themselves like the arguing disciples, betraying like Judas, or learning to serve like Peter? The sermon emphasizes that sitting at the table (attending church) doesn't guarantee salvation - one must actually partake of the bread and cup (accept Jesus). Pastor Chris concludes by sharing a testimony of a recent convert and calls people to examine their place at the Lord's table, warning that the Last Supper wasn't just a meal but a living sermon about our relationship with Christ.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and minds, ready to receive what You have for us in this time together. As we gather around Your Word and examine our place at Your table, we ask that You would speak to each of us individually. Help us to set aside our distractions, our pride, and our preconceived notions. Open our eyes to see You more clearly, our ears to hear Your voice, and our hearts to respond to Your love. Holy Spirit, guide our discussion and reveal to us where we truly stand in our relationship with Jesus. May we be honest with ourselves and with You about our spiritual condition. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

If you could have dinner with any three people from history (living or dead), who would you choose and why? What do you think would make for the most interesting dinner conversation?

## Key Verses

- Mark 14:12-21
- Exodus 12:13
- John 13:5
- John 13:23
- Luke 22:26-27
- 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

## Questions

- Pastor Chris described different seating positions around the triclinium table. Which position do you think best represents where you are in your spiritual journey right now, and why?
- John was described as the disciple who stayed close to Jesus even when others ran away. What are some practical ways we can stay close to Jesus during difficult times in our lives?
- Jesus took the position of a servant, even washing the disciples' feet. How does this challenge our modern understanding of leadership and greatness?
- The other disciples were arguing about who would be greatest while Jesus was preparing for the cross. How do we sometimes miss important spiritual moments because we're focused on ourselves?
- Judas was offered the bread (representing life) but chose betrayal instead. What are some ways people today might 'refuse the bread' that Jesus offers?
- Peter was placed in the servant's seat to learn humility. Can you share about a time when God used a humbling experience to teach you something important?
- Pastor Chris emphasized that just sitting at the table (attending church) doesn't guarantee salvation - you must partake of the bread and cup. What's the difference between religious activity and genuine relationship with Jesus?
- How can we serve in God's kingdom and in our local church? What gifts or abilities do you have that could be used to serve others?

## Life Application

This week, identify one specific way you can serve others in your church, family, or community. Whether it's helping with a ministry, serving a neighbor, or simply showing love to someone who has hurt you, take action to move from the seat of selfishness to the seat of service. Remember that true greatness in God's kingdom comes through serving others, just as Jesus demonstrated.

## Key Takeaways

- Our position at the Lord's table reflects our heart condition and relationship with Jesus
- True greatness in God's kingdom comes through serving others, not seeking position or recognition
- Sitting at the table (attending church) is not the same as partaking of the bread and cup (accepting Jesus as Savior)
- Jesus offers grace and mercy even to those who betray Him, but we must choose to accept His offer
- Closeness to Jesus produces faithfulness, while distance leads to compromise and failure

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the powerful reminder of what it means to have a place at Your table. As we leave this time together, help us to examine our hearts honestly and choose to sit in the right place - close to You, ready to serve, and committed to following You faithfully. For those who may have been sitting in the wrong seat, we pray for the courage to move closer to You. For

those who have never truly partaken of the bread and cup, we pray that today would be the day of salvation. Help us to serve one another in love, to stay humble in our walk with You, and to never take for granted the privilege of being invited to Your table. May we live this week as true disciples who have tasted of Your goodness and experienced Your grace. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.