

Encounter Church  
Sunday January 14, 2024

Sit and Serve  
Have a Seat

Last week we looked at Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-8.

We discovered that Martha loved to serve. Mary loved sitting at Jesus feet and Judas loved money more than he loved Jesus.

AND, ***Our ministry to Jesus takes priority over our ministry for Jesus!***

TEXT FOR TODAY:

Ephesians 2:4-10- "But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

THREE TRUTHS TO POINT OUT:

1. God is overflowing with mercy, love, grace and kindness! That's our God!
2. You are saved by his grace, not your'e works.
3. When you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you are seated with Christ.

***Because of Jesus Christ we have been lifted from the deepest hell to heaven itself!***

***We are no long dead in our trespasses and sin. We are alive in Christ, sharing his power and authority representing him on the earth!***

***The Believer in Christ has not only been given new life in Jesus Christ but we have been linked with Christ in his ultimate exaltation.***

Philippians 3:20- "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior."

THEREFORE- **HAVE A SEAT**

**FOUR LEGS TO THE CHAIR YOU ARE SITTING ON!**

### **1. You are Chosen**

God chose you! Think about it!

Ephesians 1:3-4- “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.”

***He had you in mind and he settled on you as the focus of his love!***

John 15:16- “You did not choose Me, but I chose you....”

Romans 8:29-30- “For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.”

HAVE A SEAT IN CHRIST- HE CHOSE YOU!

### **2. You are Adopted**

You're Family! You'll never be alone again!

Ephesians 1:5- “God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”

God said, “***You'll never be fatherless again!***”

Romans 8:15-16- “So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.”

(THE MOVIE INSTANT FAMILY)

HAVE A SEAT IN CHRIST-HE ADOPTED YOU

### **3. You are Accepted**

Ephesians 1:6- “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

***We have been graced with grace!***

***Because of his grace we are accepted into the family of God. Not our performance!***

***No more rejection! I'm accepted because of his grace!***

Romans 15:7- “Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.”

HAVE A SEAT IN CHRIST-HE ACCEPTED YOU

#### **4. You are Forgiven**

Ephesians 1:7- “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Do you really know what forgiveness means?

Hebrews 9:22- “In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.”

Forgiveness- *To send away. A release from bondage or imprisonment. A dismissal, sending away with the added quality of canceling out all judgment, punishment, obligation or debt!*

Colossians 1:13-14- “For He has rescued us and has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption [because of His sacrifice, resulting in] the forgiveness of our sins [and the cancellation of sins' penalty].”

HAVE A SEAT IN CHRIST- YOU ARE CHOSEN! YOU ARE ADOPTED! YOU ARE ACCEPTED! YOU ARE FORGIVEN!

Because you are “IN CHRIST” your sins are forgiven, never to be held against you!

Conclusion: HOW STABLE IS THE CHAIR YOU'RE SITTING IN?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?