

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Speck of Salt

THE GOSPEL OF COMMUNITY

WEEK 5

TABLE OF

KINGDOM ETIQUETTE

FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

TOPIC : Peck of Salt Week 6 - Kingdom Etiquette

Sermon audio:

www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/328

READER 1

As we continue through this Peck of Salt journey, we will now look at Kingdom Etiquette and how Jesus modelled it at the dinner table.

Etiquette is a code of polite behaviour that is common in society, such as saying thank you, or listening to others before you first

speak. If we are to extend our dining rooms tables we must follow Kingdom etiquette and not society's norms.

But what Jesus modelled for us in the Bible is a new form of etiquette, Jesus showed us Kingdom etiquette. We need to find out what Kingdom etiquette looks like, and how we can adopt it into our lives.

READER 2

Luke 11:37-40

³⁷As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table. ³⁸His host was amazed to see that he sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom. ³⁹Then the Lord said to him, "You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the

dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness! ⁴⁰Fools! Didn't God make the inside as well as the outside?

Jesus did not wash His hands before the meal like the Pharisees would have done. This was not because Jesus had bad hygiene. Jesus was choosing to not fulfil a religious duty, as the Pharisees do.

Jesus was showing them that they were hypocrites for the way that they lived. They displayed a perfect image of obeying the religious law, when in reality, their hearts were bitter. Jesus could see their hearts, and he knew of their hypocrisy. Their outside actions did not match their heart attitudes.

Question 1: Are there times in your life, when you feel you do things simply out of religious duty or obligation, rather than a desire to do them for God?

READER 3

The first key point of Kingdom etiquette that Jesus was wanting to show to us, is that we should never mix the Bible with anything. *Bible plus nothing, Bible minus nothing.* The Pharisees mixed tradition with religion, but tradition should never take the place of the Word of God. God's Word should always carry the highest authority.

Isaiah 29:13

*¹³And so the Lord says,
“These people say they are mine.
They honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
And their worship of me
is nothing but man-made rules learned by
rote.*

This is a warning to not let man made traditions, culture or norms rule over how you worship the Lord. Our actions should be a reflection of our hearts, rather than an obligation of tradition. They should also be Bible based in response to what God has said in His Word.

READER 4

The second key to Kingdom etiquette is that the love of God must be our primary motive.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all

knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

God's love is the single reason that we can be made right with Him still today. If it was not for God's love, He would never have sent Jesus to die for us. The love of God must be the foundation in all things that we do. Our dining room tables must be an extension of God's love to those around us.

Question 2: Do you find it easy to do all things by the Love of God? Do you have a true revelation of what His love looks like?

READER 5

The third key to Kingdom etiquette is to be humble. We need to show humility in all we do, God gives favour to the humble. Jesus told this parable about humility:

Luke 18:10-14

¹⁰“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹²I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for

I am a sinner.’¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God.

For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

God works the most in our hearts when we come humbly before Him. In order to have the grace of God on our lives and our dining rooms tables we need to be humble.

READER 6

The last key to Kingdom etiquette, is to speak life, and not empty words that lead to death. Jesus modelled this His entire life, even as a boy He made His way to the Temple and amazed the teachers there with His understanding.

Luke 2:46-47

⁴⁶ Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. ⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

READER 7

Jesus spoke about the Father because He knew the Father, He spoke life straight from Heaven. The Pharisees however, spoke about tradition and religious law, but Jesus warned them that they are like graves.

Luke 11:44

⁴⁴ Yes, what sorrow awaits you! For you are like hidden graves in a field. People walk over

them without knowing the corruption they are stepping on.”

Question 3: Do you struggle to speak life in your everyday routine? It is easy to speak like the rest of the world, but as God’s people, we are called to be unlike the world.

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read and why?

ACTION STEP

What action step can you take to ensure that you dedicate your dining room table to the lord.

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