



*Set a Table*  
**November 13, 2022**  
*Luke 14:15-20*

Connect:

- Do you have a favorite dinner story? Maybe it was deeply meaningful because of who attended. Maybe it was memorable because it was a disaster in some way. Share a favorite dinner story with the group?

Engage

- Read *Luke 14:15-20*. What do you perceive to be the most compelling component of this parable? Why does that stand out to you in this season of your life? How does it shape your faith?
- Can you compare this parable with any modern day story? If so, please share.
- Who do you most relate to in this story? The host? The invited guest too busy to attend? The randomly invited off the street, spur of the moment guest, who shares in the joy of the feast? Explain your answer.
- If responding at all, it seems people are slower these days to respond to invitations with their RSVP. Why is the inclination to decline, or put off the invite, so much greater these days? Is this an indictment on commitment?
- Dinner or life around Tables was essential to Jesus' way of ministry. What can we learn from this?

Next Steps:

- Mark Feldmeir, author of the book that inspired this sermon series by the same title, challenges us to create an imaginary guest list. At the top of the list, write the name, *Jesus*. Next, identify twelve more guests that you will invite to this Kingdom Feast, according to the following criteria: (1) The first three guests on your list will be people you'd least like to share a meal with, such as enemies, those who have hurt you or those from whom you're estranged. (2) Add three more guests who are physically, spiritually, or emotionally hurting, such as your neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy, the grieving widow at church, an alcoholic friend. (3) The next three guests will be children whom you especially love and who bring you particular joy – maybe your own children or grandchildren or those of your friends. (4) The final three guests should be those who do not share your particular religious convictions, such as an agnostic or atheist co-worker, a Jewish or Muslim friend, a Buddhist neighbor. Now that the list is complete, reflect on each person – their needs and joys, their hopes and dreams, their aches and awes. Imagine them sitting around the Table with you in the presence of Jesus – invited, welcomed and accepted completely by the gracious host. Imagine the conversations that are taking place around the table, the sights and sounds and smells. Take note of how you're feeling as you observe what is happening around the table. Are you thankful, apprehensive, disappointed, hopeful? Offer these feelings to God in prayer. Finally, imagine the possibility of hosting such a meal for real. What personal challenges preclude you from hosting such a feast? How might such a feast change your relationships with these guests? How might it change your relationship with God?

Pray:

- “Lord, you first set a table and invited us to join you. Help us, in turn, follow suit and set every table with an expansive heart to welcome any and all who will come. Amen.”