

Are We Ready for the Adult Table?

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:1 - 9

10/3/21

I chose this message to share with you today because it is World Communion Sunday, a day churches everywhere come to the Lord's Table.

A great memory for me is the time when I moved from the kids' table in the kitchen one Thanksgiving to the adult's table in the dining room. Let me share that memory:

It is one of my fondest memories. It is a memory from my teenage years when both my parents were alive and my grandmother who was a saint was alive. My parents were hosting the Reustle family Thanksgiving dinner. My mom had worked all week to prepare a beautiful and delicious Thanksgiving meal. She had gotten up very early in the morning to put the turkey in the oven. I can remember turning on the light in the oven to look at the turkey cooking - Yum! I can remember the smell that filled the house of a grand Thanksgiving meal - Yum-Yum!

At this Thanksgiving meal was my family - my mom, my dad, & my two brothers & me. There also was my grandmother and grandfather, Uncle Charlie and Aunt Alice, and six cousins. The adult table in the dining room could hold ten people. This Thanksgiving the adult table included my mom & dad, my grandfather and grandmother who was a saint by the way, Uncle Charlie and Aunt Alice, my older brother and two older cousins. If you have lost count - that is nine people. My Uncle Carl was unable to come, so there was an open seat at the adult table. I had gone into the kitchen to sit at the kid's table. I had not noticed that there was an open seat at the adult table.

All of a sudden my father's voice called to me from the adult table in the dining room - 'Richard, come into the dining room!' I at first got up thinking that I was in trouble because my dad only called me 'Richard' when I was in trouble. I walked into the adult room with my head bowed down. My dad already had the carving knife & fork in his hand and he pointed the carving knife at me and said these wonderful words - 'There is room for you at the table in the dining room and would you help me carve the turkey?'

My head shoot up with a great big smile on my face. I saw the open seat next to my grandmother, who was a saint by the way, so I walked over to the chair and began pulling it out. My dad said - 'No Richard, I need you up here to hold the turkey platter!' I remember that I ran to the head of the table to help my dad. I held the serving plate as level as I could as my dad sliced the turkey and placed it upon the tray. There was that moment when my father looked down at me and shared a smile with me.

It was the moment in the life of a young man when a father shares a look that will last a lifetime. After this beautiful moment, I return to the open chair next my grandmother who was a saint by the way. When I sat down, she turned to me and whispered these words in my ear - 'Something's never change but your time has come!'

My father's smile is visible in my head and my grandmother's words echo in my head - 'Something's never change but your time has come!'

Hebrews 13:8 says - *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* - that will never change! How true these words are. Our Heavenly Father will never change - God is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever. God faithfully sustains his children each moment. God provides for us. God protects us. God encourages us. God longs to draw us closer to him. That will never change.

How often do we make our relationship with God the top priority in our lives? How often do we make our relationship with God in the top ten things in our lives?

Jeremiah records the words God has given him. These are words of thanksgiving. Jeremiah tells the people that their God is the God of all twelve tribes of Israel. Jeremiah tells them that God has found favor in them and God has brought them to this Promised Land. Jeremiah tells them to pick up their tambourines and dance with joy because God has kept his promise.

This passage of scripture talks about planting vineyards and enjoying the fruits of these vineyards. People of that day know that it takes five years to produce a good crop in a vineyard, so the people know that their joy is long term.

Jeremiah continually says that the people need to sing songs of joy because Israel is a great nation. They are not a great nation because of their own merit - they are a great nation because of divine grace!

The passage ends with words about the vast number of people who will return. The blind will return. The lame will return. The expectant mothers will return. The weeping people will return. They will all find streams of water and a level path so they all will not stumble. God promises this because He is their Father.

These are great words! Jeremiah words are for us!

Our God is a God for all people. Our God has found favor in us and he has brought us to this time and place. Let us get out our noise maker and dance with joy because God has kept his promise of a Savior. We are here for the long term. Let us sing songs of joy because we are a great church. We are not a great church by our own merit - we are a great church because of divine grace.

People have joined us on our journey and we will find streams of living water and a level path to follow. We will not stumble because God is our Father and his Son is our Savior.

Throughout the ages God has stood by each and every promise written in scripture. As believers, let us resolve to remain true to his word. Something's never change!

As we come out of this pandemic which has taken so many lives and has effected so many families, are you ready for the adult table? Are we ready for the adult table?

To close this message, remember my grandmother's words, by the way she was a saint, - 'Something's never change but your time has come!' My friends, my brothers & sisters in Christ, - it is your time, your time has come!

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday. A Sunday we seek to enhance our oneness with the whole church through an awareness of all Christians coming to the communion table this day.

Today we gladly join with fellow Christians everywhere to affirm our freedom and spiritual kinship to worship the way we wish too.

Grant us the ability to seek an understanding of unity at the communion table. Let us approach the Lord's Table in love fro the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf.

There is one body and one spirit to show us the way in life.

Let us pray:

Father, we thank you for your never ending love. We thank you for your never changing love. Take a hold of our hand and tell us once more that something's never change and that our time has come. May we be found faithful to you and your Holy Son, in Christ name we pray.

AMEN.