

CHAPTER 4: THE JESUS CREED AS TABLE

GOSPEL READINGS: Matthew 11:16–19; Mark 2:14–17; Luke 19:1–10

Read Luke 19:1-10: The story of Zacchaeus shows us a man on the outside of his social *and* faith community.

1. What about this encounter reveals the heart of God as a *loving Abba*?
2. How have you been accepted and received?
3. Have you ever felt excluded in your faith community (here or elsewhere)?

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Where am I hiding – thinking that I am unacceptable?

Will I respond to Jesus invitation to come out of hiding & for Him to sit at my table?

Do I want to sit at a table of common brokenness or common self-righteousness?

McKnight writes, **“For Jesus, the table was to be a place of fellowship and inclusion and acceptance. For Jesus the table was to embody the Jesus Creed: To love God and to love others means to invite all to the table. Jesus’ attitude gave him a bad name.”**

4. How do you practice hospitality? What are some traditions or events that invite people into your world?
5. Who is someone in your life/community who exhibits Jesus’ extraordinary hospitality?

“Jesus chooses the table to be a place of grace. When the table becomes a place of grace, it begins to act.” The table of Jesus heals, envisions, and hopes.

6. When was a time when an invitation to a community experience helped you heal?
7. How does Jesus’ table teach or inspire you to live out his New Society?
8. How do you imagine Jesus’ return and perfect community living out the embodiment of what he taught about the Table’s inclusion?
9. How does our “New Society” (specifically, our church) reflect the healing, envisioning, and hope of Jesus?
10. What are you prepared to risk in order to *invite everyone to the table*?

Next week: Chapter 5, A *Creed* of Sacred Love