



THE OTHERS AT THE TABLE

Ephesians 2:1—3:12a; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Mark 16:15, 20

OPEN

How have you engaged “others” these past weeks?

Do you feel you have stretched yourself enough to be with *others*? Why or why not?

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

The book of Ephesians is a great book about “The Others.” The Apostle Paul is writing to Christians (the church) in Ephesus—a Roman city. Read Eph 2:1—3:12a (yes...it will take a few minutes). As you read/listen, listen for the following:

- Who are the *others* in this passage?
- What has changed about the *others*?
- What has God done FOR the *others*?
- What is the new reality of the gospel (THIS gospel as Paul says)?
- What else speaks to you from this passage?

DISCUSS

Perhaps the biggest “aha” from this passage (and close of this sermon series) is this: WE ARE THE OTHERS. Why are we an *other*?

Respond to this quote from the weekend message:

God in the business of taking OTHERS and making them ONE...And when we realize that we are the OTHERS and there are still OTHERS not in the room, in this gathering, at this TABLE, we realize we have a mission to accomplish together.

This past weekend we celebrated communion together. How do you approach the Lord's Table (communion)? What do you think about? What impact does it have on you?

When *others* gather around the Table, they find themselves connected to many things. Read the list below. Do these expand your understanding of communion?

- **We are connected to Passover—the great story of God.** Jesus becomes the Passover meal and sacrifice so that we can be freed and liberated from slavery and sin. We are connected to a story that has deep roots.
- **We are connected to the gospel.** In communion we proclaim the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus—who sent the Spirit, birthed the church, and calls us now to live in a new covenant—way of life of loving God and *others*.
- **We are connected to personal faith.** In remembering Jesus' sacrifice, we are led to confession, repentance, and aligning our lives to God's will.
- **We are connected as the church in worship and unity.** When our focus moves from ourselves to Christ, we find something transcend our community and our worship. God is with us.
- **We are connected to the mission of God.** God came to gather *others* to himself. We were an *other* and now he pleads with us, as his church, to go to *others* so that they too may have a seat at the Table.¹

Close you time in prayer for others in your life. Pray also for your own heart, that God would move you toward others in intentional ways.

NEXT STEPS

- Reflect on verses for this study.
- Pray for others and step into the opportunities God gives you.
- Plan on your group participating for four weeks (and inviting OTHERS) in the Take Root Series starting the week of Oct 15 and 16.

¹ Scot McKnight, *A Fellowship of Differents*, Zondervan, 2014.