

# The Table Strategy of Christ and His People (Part 2)

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 5:27-32



## Big Idea

Participating in the Great Commission is not as confusing as we might initially think. If we eat food and we love Jesus then we can participate profoundly in advancing the kingdom of God!

### (1) Levi's Table Strategy: Reinforcing Redemption

Where Jesus uses the table to reveal His redemption, Levi uses the table to reinforce this redemption. He uses the table, the shared food and fellowship enjoyed in Christ's presence, as a way of pressing deeper into Jesus, as a way of participating in the Great Commission.

### (2) My Table Strategy: Reinforcing What?

As human beings, we have to use the table in one way or another. The question is: how will we use it? What will we reinforce in our hearts and lives by the way we use it?

- **Perversion #1: Boundary**—“My Space Is Mine” | **Redemption #1: Hospitality**—“My Space Is Yours”
- **Perversion #2: Gluttony**—“My Food Is Mine” | **Redemption #2: Generosity**—“My Food Is Yours”
- **Perversion #3: Superficiality**—“My Heart Is Mine” | **Redemption #3: Intimacy**—“My Heart Is Yours”
- **Perversion #4: Animality**—“My God Is Me” | **Redemption #4: Spirituality**—“My God Is Yours”

*If I pull down books on mission and church planting from my shelves, I can read about contextualization, evangelism matrices, postmodern apologetics, and cultural hermeneutics. I can look at diagrams that tell me how people can be converted or discover the steps required to plant a church. It all sounds impressive, cutting edge, and sophisticated. But this is how Luke describes Jesus' mission strategy: “The Son of Man came eating and drinking.” . . . It's not complicated.*

*One of the great things about mission through meals is that it enfranchises the people of God. We don't have to understand missiological jargon or hold a crowd with our oratory. We don't even need to be able to cook. We just need to be people who eat and people who love Jesus.*

*I'm not suggesting adding something new to your all too busy schedule. You already eat three meals a day – that's twenty-one ready-made opportunities each week to do mission and community. You could meet up with another Christian for breakfast on the way to work – read the Bible together, offer accountability, pray for one another. You could meet up with colleagues at lunchtime. You could invite your neighbors over for a meal – better still invite them over with another family from church. That way you get to do mission and Christian community at the same time – all the while letting your unbelieving neighbors see the way the gospel impacts our relationships as Christians. (Tim Chester)*

## Reflection Questions



- Why do you think the Son of Man came eating and drinking? Why would Jesus give the table such prominence in His missional strategy?
- How would you say you use your table? In what ways does this reinforce our perversion? In what ways does it reinforce Christ's redemption?
- Which aspect of redemption is the hardest for your table: Hospitality, Generosity, Intimacy, or Spirituality? Why do you think this is?
- Read through the quote above by Tim Chester. Consider his list in the last paragraph. As you dream about your own table, how do you feel God is calling you to use it? How will you develop your own table strategy going forward?