

## A Table for All - Reflections

Welcome to the table without corners where are all equal.  
Welcome to the feast of the communion of fools for Christ:

- the symbols on this table cry out that the foolishness of God is more wisdom than all the brains in the world put together and the weakness of God is stronger than the combined will of humankind.

Listen – LOVE whispers the invitation for this is the table of Jesus – not of the church.

- This a radical space: Sharp-tongued John the Baptist will certainly concur (as was read in the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson)

Not insignificant that the theme is a “table for all”.

- In rethinking the work of racial justice and multicultural ministry what can be a more apt metaphor/paradigm **than that which is central to our belonging:**
  - a table and a meal (symbolic of all tables and all meals) and the joys/sorrows/ambiguities and contradictions that go along with eating and drinking

Table speaks of abundance: we believe in a generous and abundant God.

- Yet, we impoverish the name of this Living God every-time we restrict who should be part of the company around this table and whenever impose rules of scarcity, fear and insecurity
- We are called to life that is characterised by thank-full-living. Paul knew this – constantly giving thanks.
  - Thankfulness is a rare commodity in a culture of bent up individualism

- A table for all – is an alternative space: pointing out that another life is possible than that which shackles many of us today
- A table for all: is one where there is mutuality in giving and sharing: where we are all in need;
  - where we all must be inconvenienced for the sake of the other and the gospel;
  - where we all must journey out from our comfort zones.

This is the Jesus table – around which – our discipleship is shaped and nurtured:

- It is a space of compassion, not condemnation
- It is a space of obedience, not control or observance
- It is a relational space, not a self-righteous one (only sinners are welcomed)
- It is a space of original Blessing, not original sin
- Here is table as presence (converting) – not as proof

The Way of the Jesus table takes us right into the heart of God –where exclusion brings shame to the God of love.

And lest we forget: “our faith is commission-al, not rhetorical: **we are to go and do**, not to go and talk” [**do this and make me real in your lives**]

- Where do we want LOVE to lead us so that we can “live the fruits of a true change of heart?”

Are we able to follow and walk the Jesus Way?” Are we able and willing to share of this loaf – of abundance - and drink of this cup – the wine of astonishment?

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