


We Are
Witnesses
of His
Love. Three
Encounters
at the Table
with Jesus.

DEVOTIONAL

Introduction	—	03
Week One	—	04
Week Two	—	06
Week Three	—	08

INTRODUCTION

A photograph of two anthurium flowers. The top flower is a vibrant red with a prominent yellow spadix. The bottom flower is a light purple with a yellow center. Both flowers are on green stems and are set against a solid black background. The flowers are positioned on the left side of the page, with the red one higher than the purple one.

In Acts 1 the disciples are desperate to know whether the time had come for Israel - what they understood to be the Kingdom of Heaven — to be restored. After three years of experiencing change, opposition, miracles, deaths and resurrections, they were desperate to see Jesus established as king. Little did they know, his ascension to the throne via ascension to the cross now meant greater responsibility for them. Jesus answers: “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**” (Acts 1:7-8) They are to be his witnesses. But what does this imply?

Witness is the discipline of preaching and demonstrating the Gospel. In other words, the answer to the question of how and when the kingdom will be restored is: “right now, through you, as you share and live out what Jesus said and did.”

If we want to learn to preach and demonstrate the Gospel, we must look to the words and actions of Jesus. This devotional will guide you through three encounters with Jesus around a table. By looking closely at these encounters we will discover that we are called to be witnesses of his inclusion, his goodness and his kingdom.

WEEK ONE: GUEST LIST



Luke 7:36-50

There's a homeless man who visits the same cafe once a month or so. He plods up with a grin on his face, shopping cart in tow, and greets fellow customers sitting in the garden. It is obvious that he understands his own state as he waves to a barista from outside, kindly signalling that they can start preparing his usual order. They bring the drink out to him, and his grin widens. He knows how much his coffee costs and he always leaves a tip. It humbles the staff to see that he uses what little he has to place value on their work. Yet, he never comes inside. He must worry that his presence might upset the countless hipsters on their laptops, enjoying their third batch brew of the morning.

Jesus demonstrates radical inclusion by juxtaposing a Pharisee, cautious not to associate with anything unclean, with a woman known to be unclean. He goes so far as to elevate the hospitality the woman has shown over that which Simon the Pharisee had shown, despite her being of a lower social status. The people Jesus associated with, even earning him the nickname 'friend of sinners', challenge us to consider who is on the guest list at our table. Being a witness of the Gospel includes being a witness of Jesus' radical inclusion.

WEEK ONE: GUEST LIST



Reflection & Prayer

1. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED OUTCASTS IN OUR SOCIETY?

2. HOW SHOULD THE CHURCH APPROACH THESE PEOPLE IN LIGHT OF THIS PASSAGE, WHERE IS THERE A GAP THAT NEEDS TO BE FILLED?

3. TAKE TIME TO WRITE YOUR OWN TESTIMONY. ON *KREUZGLEICHLIEBE.DE* YOU CAN FIND A SIMPLE GUIDE THAT CAN HELP YOU WITH IT.

WEEK TWO: TABLE MANNERS



Luke 14:1-14

“Where are your manners?” Those words were spoken by my mother on regular basis at family dinners. More often than not, she was referring to my lack of awareness for other guests as I dug into the meal as if it were my first in weeks. I would roll my eyes, of course, but looking back I realise what frustrated my mother the most: I was only thinking about myself! Thankfully, I don’t seem to be alone.

In Luke 14 Jesus observes the guests of a banquet hosted by a leader of the Pharisees. We aren’t told much about their behaviour, except that they chose places of honour at the table. This was customary as being seated nearer the host was a sign of status and honour. Furthermore, people would invite others to their own banquets in the hope that the honour shown would be reciprocated. This doesn’t sit right with Jesus, and he launches into a parable, urging them to take on a posture of humility. Instead of selfpromotion they should surrender to the true host of the table. If Jesus came over to our table—our churches—what changes would he make to the guest list or seating chart? Being a witness of the Gospel includes being a witness of Jesus’ goodness and humility.

WEEK TWO: TABLE MANNERS



Reflection & Prayer

**1. IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU CHASED
SELF-PROMOTION OVER SURRENDER?**

**2. HOW CAN THE CHURCH DO FELLOWSHIP
IN A WAY THAT PROMOTES SURRENDER
OVER SELF-PROMOTION?**

**3. SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY WITH A PERSON
AND TELL THEM HOW JESUS CHANGED
YOUR LIFE. ON *KREUZGLEICHLIEBE.DE*
YOU CAN FIND A SIMPLE GUIDE THAT CAN
HELP YOU WITH IT.**

WEEK THREE: THE LORD OF THE TABLE



Luke 22:14-30

The Last Supper can be seen as the culmination of all the table fellowship throughout Luke. After three years of sitting with Jesus, hearing his teachings and observing his interactions with sinners and Pharisees alike, the disciples find themselves at the table for one of the most important Jewish holidays—the Passover. The meal had a strict order and partaking in it strengthened belonging and solidified leadership. At the Last Supper, Jesus takes on the role as head of the table and lays the foundation for his new community. A community that plays by his rules with him as Lord. For us, to sit at the table with Jesus is to enjoy his fellowship and recognise him as the divine host. It is him who extends the invitation, breaking religious and social boundaries. And it is his rules and table manners we emulate, surrendering to him instead of chasing status. Do we still recognise Jesus as Lord of the table, or do we make decisions and draw boundaries in his place? Being a witness of the Gospel includes being a witness of Jesus' lordship and his kingdom.

WEEK THREE: THE LORD OF THE TABLE

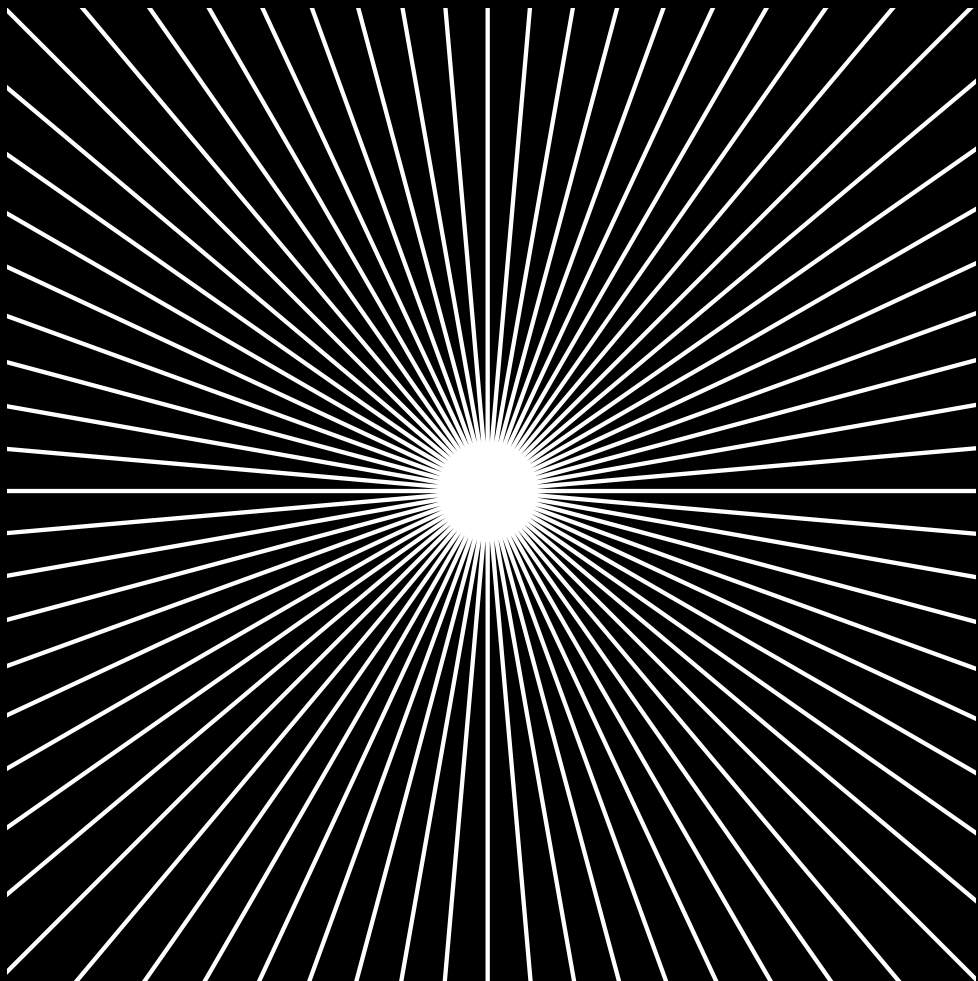


Reflection & Prayer

1. WHAT IMPLICATIONS DOES JESUS AS LORD OF TABLE HAVE FOR THE WAY WE DO TABLE FELLOWSHIP?

2. HOW DOES THE WAY WE DO FELLOWSHIP EXTEND THE RADICAL INVITATION OF JESUS?

3. CELEBRATE COMMUNION TO HAVE PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS.



KREUZGLEICHLIEBE.DE

