

October 30, 2022

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 19:1-10

Reformation Sunday!

Listening to various Rabbi's got me thinking about our own faith. Jews often ask what is it that God wants from us? This is the God that has made everything and then places us in the middle of creation. What do we have that God could possibly want from us? He has made it all anyway. Or are we just suffering from a form of guilt? So as a Christian, I often ask myself the same questions but from a Christian context and perspective. These type of questions challenge me. They force me to search for an answer and hopefully grow in my faith.

After reading the story of Zacchaeus many times, I asked myself the same question. What does God want from us? What does God want from us as Christians? The answer that came to me after much soul searching was, A FREE LUNCH. In this cheeky and irreverent quip was the answer. This got me to think more deeply about the answer that came to me!

When you stop and sit down and have a meal with someone you are creating community. There is much more going on than just food. You are building connections with people and getting to know them. If you really want to get to know someone, eat with them. This is exactly what the early church did with their agape meals. This was kind of like an early Christian pot-luck. You got to know your Christian congregation quickly. That is why when we say table grace it is so important. We are actually inviting God to be present at our table and our community. God become the center of that meal and the community. Be present at our table Lord.

As you can imagine, this does not stop here with community. It goes much deeper as you could imagine. The root of community is communion. God wants communion with us. This is why our communion services are so very important. When we take Our Lord's body and blood into our own bodies, then we have communion with Him. This is the most intimate and closest form of physical communion with God we can have. This is very deep and profound. The simple act of communion is both physical and deeply spiritual. Most of the time we do not truly understand what has happened when we commune.

When we take Our Lord's body and blood into our bodies, we have communion with Him. That is the most intimate and closest form of physical communion with God we can have. This is both physical and deeply spiritual. We believe that the elements of bread and wine become the very essence of Jesus's body and blood. This is a mystery of our faith. We do not fully understand it but it is to be taken seriously. I do not think we are to know it fully. The bread and wine

are the same person who died for you and I on Good Friday and who rose from His tomb three days later.

From an irreverent and cheeky quip comes the answer. God wants communion with each and everyone of us. Regardless of who we are or what we do for a living. Zacchaeus desired a closeness to Jesus. He heard about him and really wanted to see and hear Him. He desired a form of community with Jesus and got so much more. Zacchaeus means pure and innocent in Hebrew and is a boys name. Seeking community and communion with God changes us. Just as it did to Zacchaeus.

Take aways: God wants communion and community with us. Invite Him to our tables with grace and into our hearts with prayer.

When we want communion and community with God it will change us.

Remember that we are worthy of communion and community with God. We are drawn deeper into our relationship with Him when we commune. Pastor D