

Choose a Table

June 7, 2020

Reflection & Discussion Questions

The voices that seek to polarize us are not speaking for our God

Instead of picking a side or naming a villain, Jesus consistently spoke to love.

*What makes choosing love feel so impossible in our culture?

*Where do you feel pressure to pick a side?

Read and discuss Matthew 5:43-45(NIV)

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^a and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

*What is this passage saying to us about God? About people?

*What is it calling us to do?

When our culture tells us to pick a side...we are going to pick a table

At the table we listen, love, mourn, rejoice and share.

*What is your experience and what is God saying to you in this?

*Are there those in your life, that instead of being on opposing sides, you could invite to the table?

*What would it take for you to invite them? How would you prepare to set aside the fight and press into love that might not feel rational?

Actionable steps

*Prayer – Pray for healing in our country, pray for flourishing of our city, and for each and every person created and loved by God.

O God,
you created all people in your image.
We thank you for the astonishing variety
of races and cultures in this world.
Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of
friendship,
and show us your presence
in those who differ most from us,
until our knowledge of your love is made perfect
in our love for all your children;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.- *Lutheran
Book of Worship: Minister's Desk Edition*

God of heaven and earth, in your Word you have
given us a vision of that holy city to which the
nations of the world bring their glory. Look upon
and visit the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of
mutual regard that form our civic life. Send us
honest and able leaders. Help us to eliminate
poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may
prevail with righteousness, and justice with order,
and that men and women from various cultures and
with differing talents may find with one another the
fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen. - *Book of Common Prayer, 1977*

*Seek & Invite – With great intention, widen your circle to include others different than yourself. Ask for their perspectives; their experience and story, and be quick to listen.

*Join – Become a bridge builder, working toward relationship and deeper understanding <https://bethebridge.com/>