

a series breaking down the pursuit of Jesus

practicing the way

READ MATTHEW 9:9-13

HOW DO WE LIVE LIKE JESUS?

How do we actually do what he did? As apprentices of Jesus, we are called to not only follow Jesus in spirit, but we are called to continue his work on earth as it is in heaven. This means healing the sick, praying for the lost, opening up our homes and our lives to those far from God. The end goal is to do what he did. In this teaching, we explore the next steps in forming our lives around the practices of Jesus. The next practice we will explore is hospitality.

What is the importance of hospitality?

The history of the church is around the table. For hundreds of years, this is where the people of Jesus met. The gospel spread from one table to the next. From one home to another. All over a meal. The table is a very ordinary place. So routine and everyday it is easily overlooked as a place of life changing community. By setting a table and sharing a meal, we provide the context for which people feel loved, where people feel heard; a place where God's spirit can move. The practice of eating and drinking is central to the Kingdom of God; Jesus ate with the lost, Jesus ate with community, Jesus ate with God.

1. Is eating and drinking with the lost a part of your day-to-day life? If not, are you open to it?
2. Do you have a story where you have had an experience in which you followed Jesus' example of eating and drinking with the lost and good things came of it?
3. What thoughts or creative ideas on this week's practice?
4. Who in your life comes to mind that you want to share a meal with?

Practice

Our Practice for the coming week is incredibly simple: follow Jesus' example of eating and drinking with somebody who has yet to experience the Father's welcome. And the beauty of this Practice is that anybody can do it. All it takes is a table. Ideally, open your home or apartment. If that doesn't work, invite them to a third space (a restaurant, café, etc.). Think of creative ways to express the love and welcome of Jesus toward your guest. During your time together, ask questions, listen and don't be afraid to share meaningful conversation. At the same time, view small talk as a form of hospitality, of creating room for the guest. Just focus on loving them, not on "selling them" on Jesus. Pray for your guest before, during, and after your meal. Whatever you want to see God do in their life, pray into that.