

# INCLUSION SUNDAY

UNIQUELY DESIGNED BY GOD WITH GREAT PURPOSE

## BELONGING – COME TO THE TABLE

Sib Nafziger Charles

Luke 14:12-24, 1 Cor. 12:20-26

November 19, 2023



### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Read the Scripture passages and comment on what stands out to you and how it relates to our church and this message.

#### **Luke 14: 12 – 24: *The Parable of the Great Banquet***

12 He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

15 When one of those who reclined at the table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” 16 But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. 17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ 19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ 20 And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ 21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ 22 And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ 23 And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’

#### **1 Corinthians 12: 20 – 26**

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

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21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.



## QUESTIONS

### OPENING QUESTIONS:

- Where in your life have you intersected with disability or with someone who has a disability, special need, or who is a caregiver?
- What barriers have you witnessed (or were you made aware of) to their “belonging” -either in general or in church?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did you learn from watching the video featuring Chapel people or reading statements posted afterward that gave you a new perspective?
- What are some differences between a church that merely welcomes and includes people with special needs/disabilities and one that truly promotes belonging? What will be the fruit?

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- In building a “community of radical belonging,” how can we show the love of Jesus to those who have disabilities or special needs, or to their families/caregivers?
- Who is someone you know who is affected by disability, who may need support in order to feel they “belong” in God’s family. Ask the Lord for a specific step you can take (as an individual and/or group) to help include that person/family. (Compassion/listening, provide rides/meals or other assistance, etc.)



## PRAYER FOCUS

As a group, pray that God removes barriers and helps us to build bridges at church and beyond, to “compel people to come in, that His house may be filled.”

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