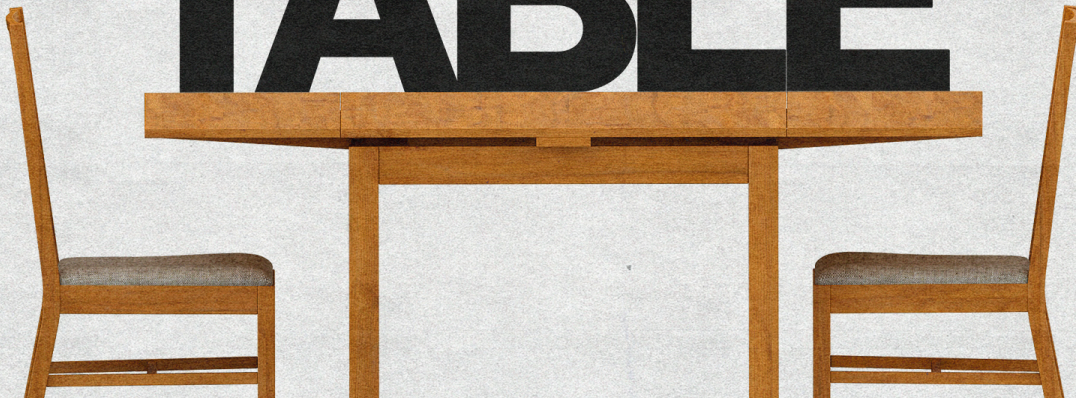


COMETO THE TABLE



PART 1: CONTROL vs. SURRENDER...WORSHIP

KEY SCRIPTURE

Mark 14:1-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 14:1–9. The first person we encounter in this story is a woman named Mary (see John 12). During a meal, she enters and pours expensive perfume on Jesus' head. What do you think motivated her to do this? What emotions, fears and concerns might she have experienced before she took this bold step?
2. Some of the people in the room were upset and criticized the woman for “wasting” such expensive perfume instead of selling it and giving the money to the poor. However, Jesus defended her and affirmed her actions. According to Jesus, what made her act so meaningful and important?
3. Pastor Will talked about how there will always be people who don't understand, or may even criticize our decision to put God first and serve Him wholeheartedly. Can you think of a time when the way you invested your time, money, or energy in following Jesus seemed foolish, excessive, or like a “waste” to others? How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?
4. Pastor Will said, “Our concern should be His approval alone.” How easy or difficult is it for you to live this out in your daily life and decision-making? Are there times when you find yourself seeking the approval of others more than the approval of God? How might that affect the choices you make and your relationship with Him?
5. Read Mark 14:10-11. The second person that we meet in this story is Judas Iscariot, who rejected Jesus not because he hated Jesus, but because Jesus wouldn't do what He wanted him to do. Talk about a time when you felt this and how you responded.
6. Pastor Will pointed out that each of us has a little Mary and a little Judas within us. At times, we can respond to Jesus with wholehearted surrender like Mary, while at other times we may be tempted to resist, control, or put our own desires ahead of His will. As you reflect on your own life, which attitude do you see more often? Are you trying to control Jesus and fit Him into your plans, or are you surrendering your plans to Him and trusting His leadership?

APPLICATION PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, help me to offer you an extravagant offering of worship today! I give you all that I am, to receive all that you are.”