

AT THE  
*Table*  
WITH  
*Jesus*

66 DAYS TO DRAW CLOSER TO CHRIST  
AND FORTIFY YOUR FAITH

LOUIE GIGLIO

 passionpublishing



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*At the Table with Jesus*

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# Introduction

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Have you ever wondered what the world's most expensive table might be like? Me neither. But I saw a headline of an article recently that caught my attention, and, of course, I ended up reading the whole thing.

Turns out the world's most expensive table is called the Tufft pier table, named after the guy who built it: Thomas Tufft. (Imagine what a good marketer could do if Thomas were in business today. *Built Tufft!*) Crafted in 1776, this table was sold to a general store owner from Lumberton, New Jersey, named Richard Edwards. All that sounds pretty normal, right?

Now comes the crazy part. A little more than two hundred years later, one of Edwards's descendants sold that same table at a Christie's auction for \$4.6 million! Here's how the *New York Times* reported on the sale:

The prize of the sale was a Philadelphia console or pier table with a Chinese-style apron of pierced fretwork, tall legs, narrow ankles and finely detailed ball-and-claw feet. The rococo rarity, carved by Thomas Tufft in 1775–76, was sold for \$4.6 million on Jan. 20, becoming the most expensive table in the world. The price was well above the presale estimate of at most \$1.5 million.<sup>1</sup>

When I first read that, I thought, *Umm, okay. How do narrow ankles translate to four-and-a-half million bucks?*

I mean, what is more commonplace in the world today than a table? Everybody has one. More than one, probably. Our homes are packed with them, from dinner tables to breakfast nooks to end tables

to bedside tables to coffee tables. Go to most parks and you'll find a whole line of picnic tables sitting out there on the grass, free for anyone to use. Or just throw a piece of plywood on top of some cinderblocks, and *boom!* there's a table.

And yet . . .

The more I think about it, the more I realize tables have a symbolic value within our culture. Tables are connected to some of the most important and meaningful moments of our lives.

When we're at home, for example, we gather around a table with those nearest and dearest to us. We have first dates at tables. We celebrate golden anniversaries at tables. We forge new friendships at tables. We teach our kids important lessons at tables. We even make business deals by shaking hands over and signing papers on conference room tables.

In a lot of ways, then, a table is an icon of influence. Of access. When you let someone join you at a table, you're inviting them in. Bringing them close. Opening yourself in a way that's vulnerable.

So, yeah, I guess I can see why tables are valuable. Does that mean I'm going to break the bank the next time I need some new dining room furniture? In a word, nope. But I do want you to consider the importance of the table in your own life. Specifically, what I call the table of your mind.

Recently I wrote a book called *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table*. It was inspired in part by Psalm 23:5, which says, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." I love the imagery of that verse. In my mind's eye, I see a green field where my enemies are prowling around, looking for a way to destroy me. Yet right there—right in the middle of the wolves and the hyenas—I see the Good Shepherd setting up a table and inviting me over. I don't have to worry when I sit down at that table. I don't have to protect myself or say anything to justify myself against my foes. Why? Because I'm at the table with the King of the Universe.

Unfortunately, it's been my observation that many people, myself included, have a terrible habit of pulling out a chair and gesturing to those ravenous wolves prowling around the perimeter: *Come on over. Have a seat.* We open ourselves to the Enemy. We give Satan access to our minds and our hearts.

*Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* is my call for all followers of God to take back our tables. To stand up in our Christ-given authority and rid ourselves of negative influences. To shut our doors against the lies, the doubts, and the fears Satan whispers so consistently and so persistently after he weasels his way into our space.

Ridding ourselves of negative influences is a critical step in winning the battle for our own hearts and minds. If you haven't had the chance to read *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table*, you may find it helpful alongside this sixty-six-day journey.

My goal for this book is to give you the next necessary step. Because once you've removed what's harmful from your table, you need to actively open some space for what is most helpful—and there is nothing more helpful in your life and mine than a genuine, thriving relationship with Jesus Christ.

*At the Table with Jesus* is an invitation to do just what the title suggests: to sit down with Jesus at the table of your mind. To give Him access and influence in the deepest way possible. To fully trust that He is good and that He alone has your best interest at heart.

What does that look like? I'm reminded of Proverbs 18:10: "The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." In my mind, I still see the same green field. I still see the table God has prepared for me in the midst of my enemies. But now there's something new, something powerful and protective. Now I see a fortified tower built around and above that table. Can you see it too? Huge cut stones, stacked and cemented. A rising wall on all four sides. Impenetrable.

That fortified tower is created by the presence of Jesus at your

table. He is the One we run to when we need to find safety. Security. Fulfillment. Purpose. He is the One who fortifies our minds against the attacks of the Enemy.

Over these next sixty-six days, we are going to explore eleven foundational truths about who Jesus is, curated to help you know Him better as you invite Him closer. Jesus is God. He is human. He is our Savior. He is a Rabbi, a teacher. Jesus is I AM. He is Lord. He is our friend. He is Head of the church and our great High Priest. Jesus is the Lamb of God. And Jesus is King.

You could think of each of these truths as a block in the fortified tower surrounding your mind and your heart. It's my sincere hope you will develop a deeper connection with Jesus during this journey. I hope you will find greater confidence in Christ as your strong tower. And I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to saturate yourself in Christ—to soak in the truth of who He is, what He values, and how He is working—so you can live with confidence and clarity as His disciple.

You've listened to the Enemy long enough. You've listened to the culture long enough. You've listened to the news media and the entertainment media and social media long enough. It's time to sit down at the table with Christ and fortify your faith with truth. And it's time to take that next step toward the life you were always created to live.

leaders wanted to know who Jesus thought He was. In fact, they demanded to know. And when Jesus mentioned a connection between Himself and Abraham, they scoffed. Abraham was a national treasure for the Jewish people. A founding father. One of the most respected personages in history, right up there with Moses. *What on earth could this rabbi be talking about?*

That's when Jesus dropped the bomb: "Before Abraham was, I AM."

This is Day 1 of our journey together, and the very first thing you need to process and understand is that Jesus is God. *The* God. The one and only Creator and Sustainer of the universe. And this same God has prepared a table for you in the presence of your enemies. This same God—the one and only God—has invited you to join Him. Jesus is God, and He is inviting you close.

It's worth chewing on the truth of Jesus' divinity for a few moments. Jesus is not just an ambassador for God. Jesus is not just part of God. Jesus is not just someone who lived a good life and taught some helpful things and deserves to be remembered favorably by history because He helped us find a better understanding of God.

No, Jesus is God. Full stop.

The religious leaders who were listening to Jesus understood His claim, even if they didn't accept it. That's why they picked up stones. In their minds, they were obeying what God commanded in His law: "Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him" (Lev. 24:16 NKJV). They were zealous in their religion even as they missed the Author of their faith.

I encourage you not to repeat their mistake. Instead, as you take a step closer to Christ at the table of your mind, I hope you'll bow in His presence and declare for all to hear, "Lord Jesus Christ, You are God, and I worship You."

## Response

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What risks are you taking when you acknowledge the truth that Jesus is God?

What rewards will you receive by making that confession?

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

**—1 JOHN 4:15**



DAY 2

# *Jesus Is the Son of God*

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**“But what about you?” [Jesus] asked. “Who do you say I am?”**

**Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”**

**Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”**

**MATTHEW 16:15-17**

All the best superheroes have secret identities. Bruce Wayne throws on a costume and becomes Batman. Carol Danvers transforms into Captain Marvel. Diana Prince grabs her lasso and fights crime as Wonder Woman. And all Clark Kent has to do is run into a phone booth and take off his glasses to become Superman.

Jesus had His own secret identity of sorts. The people of Galilee knew Him as a carpenter, the son of Joseph. For thirty years they watched Him play as a child, apprentice with Joseph, and build their homes. Then, seemingly out of the blue, Jesus launched a ministry. He taught in the synagogue. He started traveling and taking on disciples, fulfilling the profile of a rabbi. Then He began healing the sick and casting out demons—even raising the dead.

Everywhere Jesus went, the same question rang out over and over again: *Who are you?* The people wanted to know. The religious leaders wanted to know. Even the Romans wanted to know.

Of course, some people already knew. Well, not exactly *people*.

When Jesus healed a demon-possessed man in the region of the Gadarenes, the outgoing demon tried to blow the lid on Jesus' secret identity: "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" (Mark 5:7). When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, the ancient serpent tacitly acknowledged Jesus' superhero status: "The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread'" (Matt. 4:3).

Eventually it was Peter—brash, impulsive, overzealous Peter—who clued in the rest of the disciples when he told Jesus, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Yes, Jesus is the Son of God. But what does that actually mean? Obviously Jesus isn't merely a son in a biological sense. He has always existed, and as we already saw in Day 1, Jesus *is* God. So how should we understand His title as the Son *of* God?

The answer lies in the culture of the ancient world. In that time, each father was the patriarch of his family. He carried all the authority, managed all the resources, and commanded all the respect. However, it was understood that the role of patriarch would eventually be transferred to his firstborn son. Therefore, that son often served as a representative of his father. If the patriarch needed to purchase something, for example, he might send his son to finalize the deal. The son would take up his father's authority and go out in his name.

That's how Jesus operated in our world. He is equal to the Father, but He came as a representative of the Father. He came with the Father's authority and had access to the Father's resources in order to accomplish the Father's work. And so He is rightly known as the Son of God.

Jesus is more significant than any superhero—way more. But He's also closer than any comic-book character could ever be. The Son of God has stepped down into your world and offered to strengthen you, to fortify your mind and heart. How will you respond?

## Response

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The apostle John declared that those who follow Jesus are “children of God.” How should we understand that phrase?

What are ways we can acknowledge Jesus’ proper status, as Peter did?

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

**—1 JOHN 4:15**

DAY 3

## *Jesus Is the Word of God*

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**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.**

**JOHN 1:1-2**

How many Bibles exist out there in the world? The answer is a lot. Way more than anyone could count or keep track of. That's because the Bible is not only the bestselling book in history, but it is continually the bestselling book in the present. In fact, there are more than 100 million Bibles sold or given away every year.<sup>1</sup> That's nearly 275,000 every day. And that doesn't even take into account digital versions of the Word.

Next question: Have you ever wondered what the Bible *is*? What it really is?

It's easy to think of the Bible—God's Word—as a book. Or, more accurately, a collection of books. Something that can be sold or given away. But it's more than that. And we can get a glimpse of what that looks like when we read the first verse of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John was talking about Jesus in that verse. That's why he used "He" at the beginning of verse 2. Jesus is the Word of God who was "with God" at the beginning and is God.

There are two ways to understand this connection between Jesus and "the Word."

The first is what we call *revelation*. The Bible is God's specific

revelation to humanity. It's one of the primary ways God has revealed Himself to us. Who He is, what He does, what He values, and so on. Jesus is the other primary way God has revealed Himself to us. As John said later in his gospel, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (1:14). Jesus revealed God to us not through lines on a page but by living, breathing, walking, talking, healing, teaching, and correcting.

The second way to understand Jesus as the Word of God goes a little deeper into the historical context of John's day. In the ancient world, philosophers used the word *logos* to describe the concept of speaking or thinking. On a broad level, they referred to the *logos* as reason itself, as the mind of God.

Well, the word *Logos* is what John used to describe Jesus in these verses. "In the beginning was the Logos . . ." John wanted to introduce Jesus to his readers by pointing out that Jesus is unique. Unprecedented. Divine. He was and is the mind of God personified. The Logos made flesh.

In short, Jesus is the Word of God.

Put those two ideas together, and we see that Jesus reveals God to us. He reveals the mind of God to us mere mortals. That was and continues to be a big part of His mission when He stepped out of His kingdom and stepped down into ours.

More specifically, Jesus is actively revealing God to you. Every time you open the pages of Scripture, you are encountering the mind of God. The Logos. The Christ. Every time you pull up a chair with Jesus at the table of your heart, you are soaking in that revelation and solidifying your connection to God.

## Response

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How does Jesus both complement and enhance the revelation of God through Scripture?

How does thinking of Jesus as the Logos—the “divine mind” or “divine reason”—help you better understand and experience at a personal level who He is and what He values?

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

**—1 JOHN 4:15**

DAY 4

# *Jesus Created Everything*

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**For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.**

**COLOSSIANS 1:16**

It's impossible to overstate the scope of our universe. That's because there's no way we can fully comprehend it. It's too vast for anyone to measure in any reliable way. But we can get a little taste of how huge the universe must be by thinking about the number of stars wheeling around us at any given moment.

Consider this: Our sun is so massive you could fit a million Earths inside it, yet our sun is just a tiny speck within our galaxy, the Milky Way, which contains about four hundred billion other stars. And the Milky Way is a tiny speck in the known universe. Astronomers estimate there are more than a hundred billion galaxies spinning and spiraling through the heavens. How many stars might there be in the universe? The official estimate is somewhere around  $40^{22}$ , which in scientist language is 400 sextillion. If you wrote it out, you'd have a four followed by twenty-three zeros.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond sizes and spans, the incredible truth is that everything in the universe is connected, from the grandest galaxy all the way down to the smallest subatomic particle. That's because everything in the universe can be traced back to a single source: Jesus.

Scripture says it's through Jesus that "all things have been created." In other words, Jesus is the Creator of everything.

It's important to note that the phrase "all things" really does mean all things. Jesus is the Creator of all material things, which means everything that has mass, everything we can touch or measure or observe in some way. But Jesus is also the Creator of all nonmaterial things. He is the source of all love, for example. He is the source of all truth. He is the source of all goodness and mercy and grace.

Jesus is even the Creator of time. He's not bound by the minutes and months that cage all the experiences of our earthly lives. "All things have been created through him and for him."

Not only is Jesus the Creator of all things, but He also sustains all things. As we see in Colossians 1:17, "in him all things hold together." If you're watching TV and someone yanks the plug from the outlet, what happens? The screen goes blank. Whatever world or game or story you were immersed in suddenly disappears.

The same is true for what we know as reality. If Jesus were to somehow remove Himself from our world, everything that exists would no longer exist. Existence itself would cease to exist. The universe would wink and fade faster than a sparkler on the Fourth of July. Why? Because it would no longer be connected to its source of power. It would no longer be sustained by Christ.

Jesus is the Creator of everything. Jesus is the Sustainer of everything. And this same Jesus has made Himself available to you. This same Jesus is standing close, gesturing to you, *Why don't you pull up a chair?*

I hope you never lose sight of the wonder of that gift. The Author of life is interested in your life. The Creator of wisdom has offered you His wisdom. The power that fuels countless stars is available to sustain you and support you and guide you in every way.



## Response

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When has enjoying creation helped you feel especially connected to the Creator?

What obstacles sometimes prevent you from joining Jesus at your table?

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

**—1 JOHN 4:15**

DAY 5

## *Jesus Created You*

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**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.**

**JOHN 1:3-4**

How big is a trillion? That number gets thrown around a lot these days, especially in connection with the economy and the national debt. And, yes, we just talked yesterday about there being trillions and trillions of stars in the universe. But the problem with using a word like *trillion* is that it's just a word. It's just a collection of letters. What does it actually mean?

Here's a way to visualize it. Let's say you were alive when Jesus was born, and you started to spend a million dollars every day from that point forward. If you somehow managed to live two thousand years to arrive at the present moment, you still wouldn't have spent a trillion dollars.

Here's another way. Let's say you counted to a million by saying one number every second. "One, two, three, four, five," and so on. If you were to stay at that pace—one number every second—it would take you eleven and a half days to hit one million. If you tried to count to a billion at that same pace, it would take you thirty-two years to finish. So obviously there's a huge difference between a million and a billion. What about a trillion, though? If you were to keep that same pace of one number every second, you would not reach a trillion until you had been counting for thirty-two thousand years!<sup>1</sup>

I know you didn't pick up this book for a math lesson. But I wanted to illustrate just how big a trillion is because I want you to understand how crazy this next statement is: there are approximately thirty trillion cells in your body. Thirty trillion! Every single one of those cells carries out its function without you having to think about it. Every single one coordinates and cooperates with your system as a whole. And every single one includes your genetic code inside its DNA.

You are incredibly intricate, unimaginably complex, and exceedingly sophisticated. In a word, you are a miracle.

Specifically, you are a miracle created by Jesus. He designed you. He handcrafted every part of you and everything that makes you who you are. When Scripture says, "without him nothing was made that has been made," that includes you. And me. Everyone.

You have immeasurable value and worth.

No one reading these words is incidental or accidental. You were created on purpose and for a purpose.

Your life bears the signature of your master, almighty God. He knows everything about you—the good and the bad—yet He seeks to know you and invites you to know Him.

That is why He miraculously created you: to sit at the table with Him.

## **Response**

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What do you like best about yourself? Why?

What areas of your heart and mind are you trying to keep hidden from Christ?

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

—1 JOHN 4:15

DAY 6

## *Jesus Is Supreme*

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**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.**

**HEBREWS 1:1-3**

There's no doubt we live in a world with lots of options. Tons of options. Probably too many options.

If you go to the grocery store, for example, you might think you're going to grab a bottle of ketchup real quick and go on your merry way. But then you actually reach the condiment aisle, and you realize there are at least thirty different versions of ketchup to choose from. Some are on sale. Some are organic. Some are brand names, and others are generic. Some are even called "catsup," whatever that is!

So you have options. But which option is best? Which bottle of ketchup will be the perfect choice to bring you maximum enjoyment at minimum cost? Having too many options can be a problem.

Unfortunately, many people approach their spiritual lives in a similar way. They look out over the world and see lots of religious systems in operation. Lots of gods. Lots of options. Even Christians can drift into that line of thinking: *Those religions might be good for some people, but Jesus is the best option for me.*

Please hear me: That's giving the Enemy a seat at your table. It's dangerous because Jesus is not the best choice among several worthy options—He is the *only* option. He is supreme.

That's what the author of Hebrews wanted to communicate. When you read that book, you quickly see a theme develop. The first two chapters make a point to show how Jesus is superior to angels in the spiritual realm. Chapter 3 shows how Jesus is superior to Moses—a bold statement when writing to the Jewish people. Chapters 4 through 7 show how Jesus is superior to the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, and chapter 8 circles back to show that Jesus' blood shed on the cross is superior to the blood of goats and rams. Chapters 9 and 10 speak of His sacrifice on the cross.

In fact, if you were to boil down all thirteen chapters in the book of Hebrews to just one phrase, it would probably be something like this: *Jesus is better*. The fancy doctrinal term for this is *the supremacy of Christ*, and it simply means Jesus is above everything else.

When you sit down at the table with Jesus, you are not sitting down with a good way to find salvation or even with the best way to develop a connection with God. Instead, Jesus is the only way. He is supreme. Because He is God.

## Response

What would it look like for you to publicly proclaim that Jesus is supreme above all other gods and all other systems of religion?

What emotions would you experience if you made such a proclamation? Why?

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

**—1 JOHN 4:15**