

“Just Another Thanksgiving Dinner”

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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Most times, at the table, your immediate family members, with all their personalities, graces, and disgraces, were mainly there to share a Thanksgiving meal. It was a precious time to affirm each other and share each person's challenges. People brought special items they prepared to share and placed them on the table for everyone to enjoy. It was a beautiful picture of a turkey with other meats and all the trimmings to enhance the festivities. What a lovely image to capture, and you did with your cell phone... perfect!

All around the table sat broken people, some with guilt, shame, jealousy, resentment, and unforgiveness—a family with unresolved reconciliations within their hearts. On the surface, everyone seemed to be connecting and enjoying themselves until someone mentioned a trespass. Then, there was a shift in the atmosphere amidst eating and drinking their favorite libations. The spirit of brokenness began to fill the room.

Then it began... “I think you misunderstood me.” “I wasn’t angry, just emphasizing an important point.” “It wasn’t lust; I’m just a person who enjoys beauty.” “I just have a strong personality.” “I was planning on giving it back.” “It wasn’t a lie, just another way of looking at things.” “I don’t have a problem... I’m good.”

The list of unresolved conflicts within the family could go on and on. We are all so good at justifying our sins. We have become skilled at convincing ourselves that our sins are less and we are more righteous than the rest. It is destructive pride, rearing its ugly head and an insult to God. No matter how we dress up our transgressions, the scriptures contend that “*all have sinned and have come short of God’s glory.*” (Romans 3:23).

If God would go to the extent of sending His only Son, because of our sins, to live, die, be buried in a grave, and walk away for our reconciliation, the least we could do is repent and be a recipient.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on how the Lord has blessed you and the people in your life. **1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV** *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.*

I pray that at Thanksgiving Dinner, whether you have a large gathering at the table or a simple meal alone, you will remember the goodness of the Lord and give thanks.

Please celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club