



Two Cities
CHURCH

Welcome

December 15th, 2019

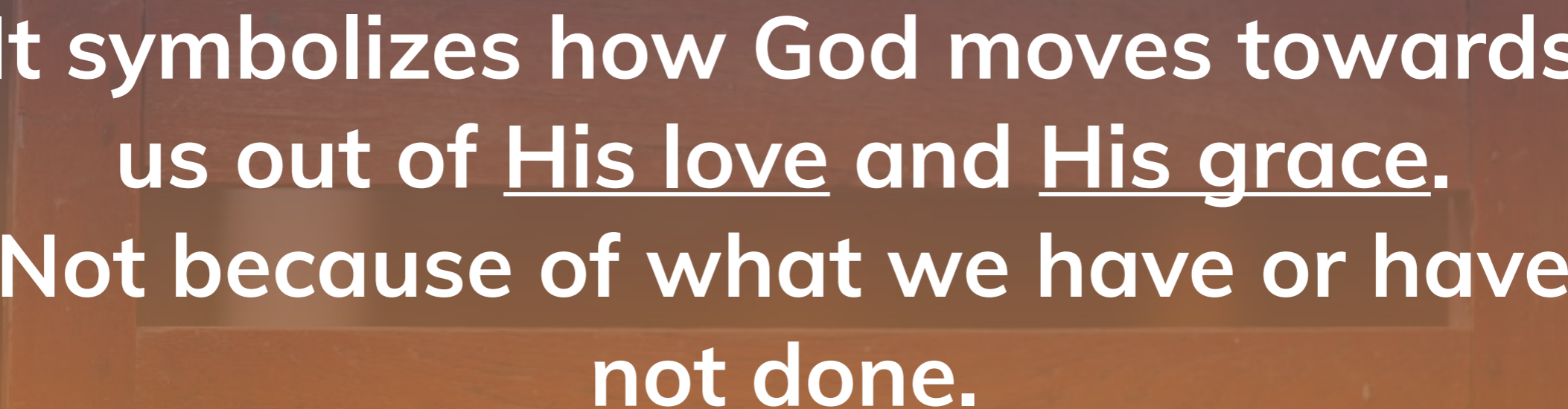




A wooden chair with a cushioned seat, set against a blurred background of a room with a table and chairs. The chair is the central focus, with its backrest and seat clearly visible. The background shows a table and other chairs, but they are out of focus. The overall lighting is warm and soft.

A Seat At The Table

Matthew 9



It symbolizes how God moves towards
us out of His love and His grace.
Not because of what we have or have
not done.

A seat at the table

Matthew 9

Jesus At The Table

“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.”

Matthew 9:9

The Jews perceived Matthew as the enemy. He was a sellout.

Jewish view on a tax collector

“These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.”

Matthew 10:2-4

**Matthew was rejected.
Simon the zealot was accepted.**

Jewish Perspective

**Jesus was redefining who was
accepted into God's family. He was
breaking down the barriers to the
table.**

Jesus' invitation

“When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?””

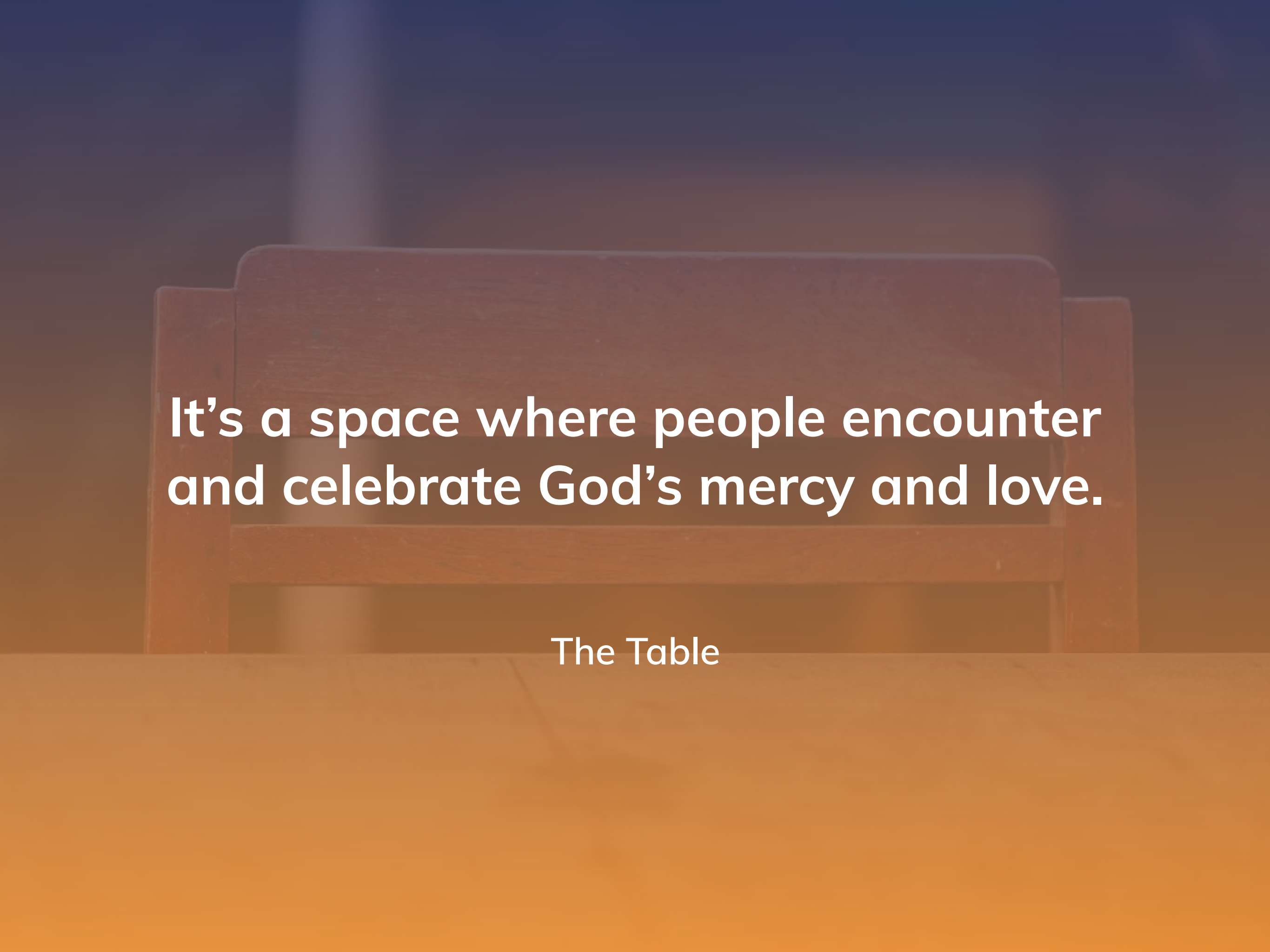
Matthew 9:11

““On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ _[1] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.””

Matthew 9:12-13

We see through Jesus on the cross how God has moved towards us. Our relationship with God is not based on our ability or inability. It's on what Jesus has done.

#HeavyFacts



**It's a space where people encounter
and celebrate God's mercy and love.**

The Table

Question to consider:

**How will you respond to this invitation
to the table?**