



House Rules | Ethan Matott | 9.13-14

### Weekly Study

## SHARE

Welcome to the second week of Rowdy Church and this weekend's message, **House Rules**. So far in this series we are learning the culture of a rowdy church that looks like Jesus. He is not building a quiet club for the already convinced. He throws parties for prodigals, pulls up chairs for the broken, and turns ordinary tables into places of healing. The four house rules are simple and costly. **Everyone is welcome. You will never be the same. Bring all your friends. It is on the house.**

Today's message traces how Jesus meets people at tables and doorways. We see the Father's heart in *Luke 15*, the criticism of Jesus for eating with sinners in *Luke 7:33–35*, the transformation of Zacchaeus in *Luke 19:1–10*, and the urgent invitation of the banquet in *Luke 14:21–23*. Together we will name what keeps us outside the party and practice how to open the door to others.

- ☐ What was the most memorable celebration you have ever attended and what made it meaningful for you?
- ☐ Who helped you feel welcome when you first visited church and what did they do that mattered?

## GROW

**Read Luke 15:11-32**

- ☐ How does the Father's welcome in this passage challenge both shame and self-righteousness in you?

The younger son comes home rehearsing disqualification. Shame says I do not belong here. The Father does not wait at the porch with a lecture. He runs, embraces, clothes, and rejoices. The house rule is not to clean up and then come in. It is come in and you will be made new. The party

is not a reward for good behavior. It is a celebration of resurrection.

- ☐ **Where do you still feel like you need to earn your place at God's table and how is the Father inviting you to receive instead?**

The older brother stands outside with a perfect record and a closed heart. Self righteousness keeps score and misses joy. It can keep us serving without celebration, near the house but far from the Father. In the story the Father goes out to both sons. He pleads with the son who is the rule keeper just like he ran to the rebellious son. The barrier is not our badness or our goodness. The barrier is whether we will trust the Father's grace.

The party is the Father's idea. He pays the cost. He restores identity and community. When we let that grace land, we become people who can walk into rooms ready to rejoice over anyone who turns toward home. That is the heartbeat of a rowdy church.

## MOVE

### Read Luke 19:1-10

Jesus notices Zacchaeus in a tree, calls him by name, and chooses his table. The crowd mutters about the guest list. Jesus is not afraid of association. He is eager for transformation. A rowdy church believes Jesus still meets people at tables and that homes and coffee shops are holy ground for divine appointment

- ☐ **How does Jesus' self invitation to Zacchaeus' house reveal the way grace moves first toward people who feel on the outside?**
- ☐ **How have you seen Jesus change the atmosphere of a meal or conversation when you made space for him?**

Zacchaeus responds with repentance and generosity. He gives and makes wrongs right. Grace did not make him passive. It made him wholehearted. That is what it means to say it is on the house. Jesus paid the bill and now we live open handed. When grace is real, wallets, calendars, and guest lists change.

- ☐ **Who are one or two friends or neighbors Jesus might be inviting you to host at your table this week and what would help them feel honored?**

Jesus also tells a banquet story where the servants go quickly to the streets and alleys because there is still room. The Father wants a full house. Maturity looks like moving from asking what did I get out of this weekends message to asking who I can bring next time. Celebration is a strategy for

mission.

- ☐ **How could our group make next Sunday feel like a party for people who are far from God and what practical steps can we take together?**

## **P R A Y**

Ask the group for prayer requests and celebrations this week. As a rowdy church, we want to celebrate answered prayers and give God praise. Write them down together, pray over them, and thank God for what He has done. Close with one person praying for the group.