**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, June 28, 2015**

**Sermon Title: Finding us Faithful, Fruitful Practices #5**

**Radical Hospitality: Room at the Table**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:12-19 *(New International Version)***

12And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? 14To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. 15Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. 16Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. 17For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. 18He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. 19And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

**Luke 14:15-24 *(New International Version)***

15When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” 16Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ 18“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ 19“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ 20“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ 21“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ 22“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ 23“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 130**

Leader: I cry out to you from the depths, Lord!

**People: My Lord, listen to my voice!**

Leader: Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy!

**All: Hear our prayers O Lord and in your great mercy, answer!**

**Basic Theme: *Radical Hospitality for both members of our church family and visitors to our church communicates as much about the God we serve as it does about us. God’s love flows through us as we express a welcoming spirit. There is plenty of room at the table of the Lord.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): The Gospel message is an expression of God’s longing to be in an intimate relationship with us. We all want to know to be known. How we welcome and love strangers into our church and into our homes should express God’s desire to know them and God’s longing to love them. They will know how much God loves them by how much we love them.**

**So What? How are we doing at reaching out to our neighbors? How are we doing at welcoming strangers into our church family? What message do our actions convey to visitors? What can we do better? What can you do better?**