

HOSPITALITY 11/21/2021

NOTES

Romans 12:9-13 - *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.*

Being hospitable means showing people that they matter and that they are valued. Hospitality points them to our great God. It means meeting them where they are and welcoming them into our midst so that they can meet Him.

Genesis 18:1-5 - *The Lord appeared again to Abraham near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day. ² He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground.*

³ *"My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. ⁴ Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet. ⁵ And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey."*

"All right," they said. "Do as you have said."

Abraham recognized an opportunity to show the hospitality of God. When he saw them coming, he jumped at the chance to welcome and serve them. This is what Jesus did for us: He meets us where we are, runs toward us, and welcomes us into His family.

Genesis 18:6-8 - *So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Get three large measures of your best flour, knead it into dough, and bake some bread." ⁷ Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it. ⁸ When the food was ready, Abraham took some yogurt and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them in the shade of the trees.*

Hospitality gives its best. Abraham didn't serve years-old food; he gave the best food he could. We need to leverage what has been placed in our hands. Hospitality doesn't give leftovers, but the highest quality we can.

Genesis 18:9-10 - *"Where is Sarah, your wife?" the visitors asked.*

"She's inside the tent," Abraham replied.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!"

Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent.

Hospitality leads to our next blessing. Express hospitality with your heart, not to receive something, but because you care about something. We can never know what plans God has in the works. Use the gifts God has given you to your fullest potential and you will see His blessings flow into your life.

GROUP QUESTIONS

- What is hospitality?
- When was a time you were shown hospitality?
- How does hospitality show people that they matter?
- What does it mean to meet people where they are?

PRAYER

Thank you for meeting us where we are but not letting us stay there! Like Abraham, give us opportunities to show your hospitality and show people that they are highly valued. We need to serve with your heart and love, and use what we have as best we can.