



Hospitality

Recovering the Lost Christian Practice - Part 2

Why Study Hospitality?

- ▶ **By and large, Americans do not understand hospitality**
- ▶ **As a church, we have lost the practice of hospitality**
- ▶ **We have substituted programs and institutions for true hospitality**
- ▶ **Hospitality is central to the Christian life**
- ▶ **Hospitality was the manner in which the gospel was originally communicated**



Should Exodus *Why Study Hospitality?*

- ▶ Modeling hospitality has not been enough
- ▶ We have been building “community” without practicing hospitality
- ▶ The condition of our heart is laid bare when we wrestle with hospitality



Defining Hospitality

▶ The Greek word we use is composed of two parts:

“*philo*” (φιλο) and “*xenia*” (ξενία)

lit. “*love*” to/of “*strangers*”



Defining Hospitality

▶ Hospitality was understood and expected:

- No public places for lodging or food
- No way for news and information to travel
- Host was obligated to provide food, shelter and protection
- Guest provided stories and news of outside world



Defining Hospitality

▶ Hospitality was / is a sacred duty:

“In ancient Near Eastern culture, hospitality was of paramount value and importance. It was more than oriental custom or simple good manners; it was a sacred duty that everyone was expected to observe. Only the depraved would violate this obligation.”

*- Michele Hershberger:
A Christian View of Hospitality*



Defining Hospitality

- ▶ Hospitality was / is a sacred duty:
 - Greek gods visiting unsuspecting visitors
 - Hindu legends of gods disguised as beggars
 - Hebrew tradition of angels as guests (Genesis 18:1-15; Genesis 19:1-22)
 - New Testament view of Jesus as the actual guest (Matthew 25)



Defining Hospitality

- ▶ Hospitality was / is a sacred duty:

Hebrews 13:2

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

- Hebrew tradition of angels as guests (Genesis 18:1-15; Genesis 19:1-22)
- New Testament view of Jesus as the actual guest (Matthew 25)



Defining Hospitality

- ▶ Hospitality was paramount:

Lot and the Two Visitors (Genesis 19)



Defining Hospitality

▶ Hospitality was paramount:

“Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, ‘No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don’t do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.’ ”

- Genesis 19:6-8



Defining Hospitality

- ▶ Hospitality placed the stranger above the household:

Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17)

“... But first make a small loaf of bread for me...”

- ▶ Hospitality was often initiated by the stranger:

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

*“Zacchaeus, come down immediately.
I must stay at your house today.”*



Extending Hospitality

▶ Hospitality indicated acceptance of the Gospel:

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

“But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you.’”

- Luke 10:5-10



Extending Hospitality

▶ Hospitality indicated acceptance of the Gospel:

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

- Matthew 10:40-42



Extending Hospitality

▶ Hospitality indicated acceptance of the Gospel:

“While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: ‘You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection.’ . . .

“Then Peter said, ‘Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.’ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.”

- Acts 10:27-29a; 47-48



Extending Hospitality

▶ Hospitality indicated acceptance of the Gospel:

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

- Revelation 3:20



Extending Hospitality

Matthew 25:31-40

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’



Extending Hospitality

Matthew 25:31-40

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’”

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”



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