



Hospitality

Recovering the Lost Christian Practice - Part 3

Where We've Been

Week 1: **Intro / Why Study Hospitality**

Week 2: **Hospitality in the Scriptures**

Tonight: **Christ as the Stranger**

Next Week: **Easter / Receiving Hospitality**

Then: **Practical Issues in 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



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good



Defining Hospitality

- ▶ Hospitality was / is a sacred duty.
- ▶ Hospitality was often paramount.
- ▶ Hospitality placed the stranger above the household.
- ▶ Hospitality could be initiated entirely by the stranger.
- ▶ Hospitality indicated acceptance of the Gospel.



Hospitality and the Gospel

▶ 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



Hospitality and the Gospel

▶ Hospitality indicated acceptance of the Gospel:

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. . . . 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



Hospitality and the Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

“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 25:31-46

“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.’”



Hospitality and the Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”



Hospitality and the Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

*“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.”*

** * **

*“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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