



Hospitality

Recovering the Lost Christian Practice - Part 5

Where We've Been

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

Week 2: **Hospitality in the Scriptures**

Week 3: **Christ as the Stranger**

Last Week: **Easter / Communion
Receiving Hospitality**

Tonight: **Practical Issues in Hospitality**



Extending Hospitality

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

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

lit. “*love*” to/of “*strangers*”

“Hospitality . . . always included family, friends and influential contacts. The distinctive Christian contribution was the emphasis on including the poor and neediest, the ones who could not return the favor.”

- Christine Pohl

*Making Room: Recovering Hospitality
as a Christian Tradition*



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“Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.””

- Luke 14:12-14



Practical Issues

- ▶ *I do not have the “gift of hospitality.” Hospitality does not come naturally to me.*
- ▶ *I am frugal, and it is hard for me to be generous.*
- ▶ *I don’t feel that my hospitality is reciprocated. I genuinely worry that others are taking advantage of me.*
- ▶ *Why is there so much of an emphasis on food whenever we discuss hospitality?
Can we be hospitable without offering food?*



Practical Issues

- ▶ *I am introvert. Hospitality seems easy for people who are extroverts, but it is hard for me to invite people into my space.*
- ▶ *I don't understand the point of hospitality. How are we going to develop a deep, intimate relationship with a complete stranger simply by inviting them to stay with us or to share a meal?*
- ▶ *Where are the boundaries? Am I supposed to invite every single person who needs a meal or a place to stay?*



Practical Issues

- ▶ *What if I am uncomfortable with a guest's behavior or habits, and they seriously pose a problem in my home?*
- ▶ *I don't have a home to invite anyone to. How can I practice hospitality?*
- ▶ *I am barely getting by. I don't have any resources with which to be hospitable.*
- ▶ *Isn't it a bit overwhelming for the stranger, the newcomer or the recent acquaintance to suddenly be invited into the midst of our life?*



Practical Issues

- ▶ *What if someone that is invited into the home steals from me?*
- ▶ *I worry that inviting a stranger into my home is not safe. How can I show hospitality in a world where so many people are out to harm others?*
- ▶ *What happens if someone overstays their welcome, and doesn't take the hint that its time to move on? There are limits and I worry I won't be able to enforce them.*



Practical Issues

- ▶ *What if my hospitality is just going to enable someone and prevent them from working to provide for themselves?*





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