

## Sermon Notes

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 1.26.2025

## GOSPEL HOSPITALITY

### I. INTRODUCTION

- Today, we will look at what Scripture teaches us about hospitality.
  - What comes to your mind when you think about hospitality?
  - Hospitality in our modern sense has more to do with the host and entertaining.
  - Hospitality in the biblical sense is not about entertaining.
  - The word translated “hospitality” in our bibles comes from a compound Greek word meaning, “love for strangers.”
  - Hospitality has to do with inviting people into your home and into your life, it’s about befriending people, serving people, and caring for people.
  - But one of the distinguishing marks of gospel hospitality is that we not only invite friends and family to the table, but also strangers.
  - Hospitality is about going outside your normal circle and inviting those whom Christ would also welcome to his table.
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- My prayer is that you will be convicted and provoked by God’s Word and Spirit to a rhythm of life that reflects the beauty of the gospel. We were strangers and aliens and have been invited and brought into God’s family.
  - God has shown us radical hospitality.

#### **Luke 14:12-14**

He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

### II. HOSPITALITY TO SAINTS AND SINNERS

- The gospels of Matthew and Luke talk a lot about food and eating and drinking.
- Between these two gospels there are close to 150 references about Jesus and food.
- One commentator wrote that, “*in Luke’s gospel Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal or coming from a meal.*”
- So much of Jesus’s ministry centered around a meal as he was dining with others.
- Over a meal, Jesus would teach, over a meal Jesus displayed radical love and grace, over a meal he demonstrated what the kingdom of heaven was like.

- In Luke 14, Jesus actually teaches on hospitality, using the occasion where he was invited to dinner on the Sabbath by one of the rulers of the Pharisees.
  - Jesus is invited not because they loved him and wanted to be with him, but because they wanted to trap him. Jesus asks them a question that silences them. (Luke 14:1-6)
  - Then he turns to the guests and he makes an observation about their motivations and he rebukes them. (Luke 14:7-11)
  - The guests wanted the best seats, they wanted to be noticed and celebrated. They wanted positions of honor.
  - Then he establishes a kingdom principle, “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
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- Jesus turns to the host of the dinner party and proceeds to tell him how he should have conducted his dinner party.
  - He rebukes the host because as he looks around at the dinner guests and he notices who is missing.
  - *“When you throw a dinner party, don’t invite friends and relatives, and your rich neighbors.”*
  - But he’s hammering the religious hypocrites who did what everyone else did—invite only those who were closest to them, who thought exactly like them, who agreed with them and could do something for them.
  - His point is that they limited their guest list only to those who can reciprocate and pay them back.
  - That’s how the world works.
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- Why is it important that we practice this kind of hospitality, inviting the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind into our homes and lives?
  - It’s because that’s who we were!
  - We were poor and blind and in our spiritual poverty we were rescued and given a rich inheritance in Christ.
  - We were orphans and have been adopted into God’s family and are now children of God.
  - We were strangers who were made friends and family and have been given a kingdom.
  - We were the least of these and were shown radical grace and love.
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- Are you inviting others into your home and life?
  - It should start with you showing hospitality to your brothers and sisters in Christ.
  - In fact we’re commanded to be hospitable to the saints.
  - Romans 12:13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
  - If you can’t show hospitality to those who are part of the family of God you won’t show hospitality to your neighbors and strangers.
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- The point of Jesus’s instruction is that we are to show hospitality to those who cannot repay us.
  - This challenges our motivations.
  - Jesus infuses the practice of this kind of hospitality with eternal rewards.
  - *“You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*
  - Don’t expect repayment, don’t expect gratitude, if you’re willing to open your home and your lives to the broken, if you are doing it unto the least of these and recognize you are doing it unto Jesus, you will be rewarded in heaven.
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- Begin to think about ways that you can begin to bring people into your home and life.
  - Invite your co-workers over for a meal.

- If you play sports, invite someone outside of your circle who doesn't know Jesus to come along with you.
  - If you love watching sports, invite someone who doesn't know Jesus to watch with you.
  - Invite a newcomer to church out to lunch.
  - Get to know your neighbors and invite them over for a cookout.
  - Seek out opportunities to get to know the people that you see regularly at the gym or your children's school and invite them out to lunch or have them over for a meal at your house.
  - Think about how you can be intentional in your everyday life and practice hospitality.
  - Every christian can be a missionary by opening up their homes and their lives.
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- Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
  - It's a wonderful reminder to treat strangers with care and compassion, and show hospitality to those outside of our circles because these acts of kindness and hospitality can have unseen, eternal consequences.

### III. PRINCIPLES OF GOSPEL HOSPITALITY

#### WE SHOULD PRACTICE HOSPITALITY JOYFULLY

- Our attitude in practicing gospel hospitality should be joyful.
  - 1 Peter 4:9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.
  - The opening of our homes is important, but we must also open our hearts to the practice of hospitality and to practice hospitality with joy and not resentment.
  - Practicing hospitality is about people, not perfection. It's about displaying love and grace, like our Lord has shown us.
  - Your guests won't remember dust on the shelves, or a little bit of mess, but they will remember the warmth with which you received them and the love that you shared. That's what matters.
  - Don't get caught up on what you're going to serve.
  - The point is making room in your life for others, saints and sinners and those who are often overlooked.
  - There are some in our church body who are out in the margins--invite them out to lunch.
  - There is someone you know that is facing hardship, invite them over.
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- Hospitality looks different depending on seasons of life and circumstances.
  - Be inventive and creative in practicing gospel hospitality.
  - Stop making excuses for why you can't!

#### WE SHOULD PRACTICE HOSPITALITY INTENTIONALLY

- Don't just invite someone to your feast, also invite them to the King's feast.
- After Jesus rebukes the selfish dinner guests and the host, he tells a parable of a man who gave a great banquet and invited many.
- But all of the invited guests began to make excuses.
- The master tells him to go back out and go to the streets and bring in the poor, and crippled, and lame and blind.
- And he goes out and does that and comes back to say that he had done that and there's still room.
- So the master says to the servant, "Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled." (Luke 14:23)

- Jesus has prepared a great feast, a great banquet, and he has invited many to come to his table.
- We are his servants, who through the practice of gospel-hospitality, invite others to the King's feast, to dine at his table.
- And there's plenty of room at the table. So we won't limit our guest list or our evangelistic efforts.
- Jesus wants a full house. God is a gracious host inviting everyone to His table.
- Are you practicing gospel hospitality and inviting others to his great banquet?

## GOSPEL HOSPITALITY REFLECTS GOD'S HOSPITALITY

- The storyline of the Bible begins and ends with God, the gracious host, providing the choicest of meals for his people.
- The climax of God's story, ends with the great feast in Revelation, what John calls the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- Have you thought of heaven this way?
- As an unending feast of the choicest of foods and drinks at the table of our Lord and with the whole company of the redeemed.
- Meals and hospitality are major themes in all of Scripture and in God's story.
- Have you accepted the King's invitation?
- If you haven't, there's still room for you. There's a seat for you at his table.
- Will you invite others to the King's feast?
- Will you practice gospel-hospitality, opening your heart and home and faithfully inviting others to the King's feast?
- May we be stirred to practice hospitality to all, especially to the least of these, that our King's house may filled.

## APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message....\

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?