



Devotional - 10/15/2024

Hebrews 13:2 says, “Don’t neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.” My favorite translation of this verse—though not the most literal—is: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” It just has a certain ring to it.

Without the Old Testament context, it may be unclear why the author of Hebrews emphasizes this point. The writer is pointing us back to Genesis 18, when Abraham welcomed three strangers in the heat of the day. Without hesitation, he rushed to offer them water, prepared a meal, and made them comfortable. Later, we learn that these visitors were the Lord and two angels.

Now, I don’t know about your neighbors, but I’m pretty sure mine aren’t angels. Hebrews isn’t suggesting that every guest might be a supernatural being—but the principle remains: we are called to show hospitality, like Abraham, acknowledging that we may not always be aware of who we are showing hospitality to.

Your dinner table could and should become a place where God’s work unfolds in unexpected ways. The people we invite into our messy, imperfect homes could lead to conversations. Those conversations might even lead to sharing the gospel. And suddenly, these dinner parties become “angelic dinner parties” because the angels are rejoicing over one more person coming to saving faith in Jesus.

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers”—we are urged not to neglect hospitality. So here’s the challenge: take one family you’ve been praying for—maybe even the one you know the least—and invite them over for dinner. Yes, it might feel uncomfortable. They might decline.

But what if they say yes? What if that small step leads to a relationship with eternal significance?

Don’t stress about planning the perfect evening. Just offer an open door and trust God to work in the midst of it. Your dinner table could be the setting for something sacred, something far beyond what you imagine.

Maybe, like Abraham, the Lord has a blessing in store if you just entertain the strangers in your life.