



Hospitality

Romans 12:9-13; Genesis 18:1-8



15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

- John 15:15

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last...

- John 15:16

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- John 15:5

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

- Luke 19:5-6

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need.
Practice hospitality.

- Romans 12:9-13

The Gifts of Hospitality

1. Presence
2. Stillness
3. Safety
4. Love

1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

- Genesis 18:1-3

“Soul friends show hospitality by making space in their lives for others. Making space in my life is more than giving advice, money or some other form of help. But the essence of hospitality is taking another person into my space, into my life. This is also the essence of being a soul friend.”

-David Benner,
Sacred Companions

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“Hospitality is certainly something we can practice, but it springs naturally from the heart of the good host. The challenge is learning to be a good soul host.”

-David Benner,
Sacred Companions

“Part of the gift of soul hospitality is the gift of presence. Spiritual friends know how to make themselves available to others, temporarily setting aside their own preoccupations and distractions. They know how to genuinely be themselves and invite you to do the same...

“They really listen to you, opening themselves to your experience and receiving it as though it were their own. And because they themselves are growing in personal attunement to the Spirit of God, they know how to help you attend to God’s presence.

-David Benner,
Sacred Companions

Reflection Questions

1. How would you assess the quality of the soul hosting you offer to others?
2. What gets in the way of your being genuinely present for others?
3. What makes it difficult for you to be still in the presence of God yourself?
4. Is there an invitation to spiritual transformation contained within the practice of “welcoming the stranger” that has to do with cultivating contentment or greater comfort with lack of pretense?

“We seem to have a choice: either we can avoid the intimacy of fully welcoming ‘the other’ or we can lean into it, knowing that extending this kind of welcome is another step toward fostering the transforming community we seek. Perhaps in the ordinariness of sharing a meal or a cup of coffee [...] Perhaps in the context of such ordinariness our ‘strangeness’ to one another can be transformed into spiritual companionship...”

-Ruth Haley Barton
Life Together in Christ

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4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.

5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.” “Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.

- Genesis 18:4-7

“What happens when we offer hospitality? We invite someone into a space that offers safety and shelter and put our own needs aside, as everything is focused on the comfort and refreshment of the guest.”

-Margaret Guenther,
Holy Listening

1 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

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

- Hebrews 13:1-2

“This is a form of mission Jesus would recognize. These are the kinds of events he might have attended. But they are also ways of doing mission that you could do. When you combine a passion for Jesus with shared meals, you create potent gospel opportunities.”

-Tim Chester,
A Meal With Jesus

World's Most Expensive Meals

1. Fijimake Gekiyo, Tokyo Japan – Bowl of Ramen \$110

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5. Great Britain - Wagyu Meat Pie, \$2,000
6. Italy - Louis XIII Pizza, \$12,000

The Most Expensive Meal

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

- 1 Peter 1:18-19

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- John 15:15



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