

Portraits of Love: Scriptural Stories of Hospitality

Rich Mendola
International Friendships, Inc.

rmendola@ifiusa.org

July 14, 2016

- I. The link between hospitality and love
 - a. Hospitality is one of the primary ways that outsiders (strangers) experience love.
 - Hebrews 13:1-2
 - Romans 12:9
 - Romans 12:13
 - 1 Peter 4:8-9
 - b. Love through hospitality is the pattern of teaching in the Word of God.
- II. Hospitality is commanded, but also illustrated. We need not only to be told to practice hospitality, but we need to know what that practice looks like.
- III. Basic components of hospitality illustrated in the story of Abraham & the 3 visitors. (Genesis 18:1-20)
 - a. This story is the foundational story of hospitality. (Hebrews 13:1-2)
 - b. Hospitality includes a warm welcome.
 - c. Hospitality involves sharing food and drink.
 - d. Hospitality involves sharing from the heart.
 - e. Outcomes:
 - hearing the Word of God
 - a son
 - a resurrection
 - f. Application:
 - Which aspect of hospitality is easiest for you?
 - Which is most difficult?
 - What lifestyle changes would you need to make to practice hospitality?

- IV. Planned hospitality – story of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-17)
- a. There are two kinds of hospitality: spontaneous and planned. We need to practice both.
 - b. Spontaneous hospitality.
 - c. Enthusiastic hospitality (a warm welcome)
 - d. Consistent hospitality
 - e. Planned hospitality
 - f. Generous hospitality – the use of our resources to practice hospitality.
 - g. Unconditional hospitality
 - h. Outcomes:
 - hearing the Word of God
 - a son
 - a resurrection
 - i. Application:
 - What step(s) can you take to practice hospitality regularly?
 - Will you ask the Lord for His plan for you in this area?
 - What resources has God given you that you can use to practice hospitality? Will you offer them to God?
- V. Sacrificial hospitality – the widow at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7-24)
- a. The widow was a person with little to give and seemed an unlikely person to practice hospitality.
 - b. God wants to use hospitality as the means to supply the needs of strangers.
 - c. When God calls us to practice hospitality and meet the needs of others, we either react with fear or faith.
 - d. Outcomes:
 - hearing the Word of God
 - a son
 - a resurrection
 - e. Application:
 - Will you be obedient to ask those to whom God sends you for provision?
 - Will you share what you have (resources, time, experiences) believing that God will meet all your needs out of His glorious riches?
 - Will you overcome your fears to obey and give?
 - Will you be hospitable to the stranger God sends you?

- VI. Burdensome hospitality: how not to practice hospitality – the story of Martha & Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
- a. Martha had the desire to be hospitable.
 - b. Mary understands the heart of hospitality: relationships.
 - Honoring through attention
 - Honoring through receiving, not just giving
 - Honoring through treasuring
 - c. Martha experienced hospitality as a burden.
 - Too much to do, not enough help
 - Results: anger, frustration, self-pity, and resentment
 - d. Jesus rebukes her and calls her to true hospitality.
 - e. Outcomes:
 - hearing the Word of God
 - the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead
 - f. Application:
 - Do we practice hospitality out of communion with Jesus or obligation to Jesus?
 - Do we need the rebuke of Jesus regarding how we practice or don't practice hospitality?
 - How can you overcome busyness to practice hospitality?
- VII. The blessings of hospitality
- a. Relationships
 - b. The Word of God
 - c. Supernatural provision
 - d. Supernatural power (resurrection)
 - e. Why do you think that hospitality is linked to resurrection power?
 - f. With such clear commandments to practice hospitality, stories that illustrate hospitality, and such powerful blessings associated with hospitality, why do we hesitate to practice Biblical hospitality?
 - g. Applications:
 - What steps can you take to develop a lifestyle of hospitality?
 - When will you get started?

For more information about hospitality with international students:

Rich Mendola

International Friendships, Inc.

www.richmendola.org

www.ifipartners.org