

Entertaining Strangers

“Be not forgetful to **entertain strangers**; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”
Hebrews 13:2

Introduction:

1. Because there are hotels and much more rapid modes of transportation, the cultural duty of the text has been somewhat altered. Strangers do not pass on our streets very often looking for a meal and lodging; visitors from other churches are seldom and generally not here for long; but there are saints who visit our church and city, and to them we can be like Abraham.
2. The issue here is the grace and good work of Christian hospitality – entertaining those outside your family with food and lodging who are in need of it in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. We have several brothers who are good examples, and a nonmember who is a great example.
4. How can you show your full compliance with the second commandment without hospitality?
5. It may require getting out of your comfort zone, but the Lord implies and proves a blessing.
6. You do not need angels as men to receive a blessing. How about saints with angel servants!
7. Jesus Christ will remember even the smallest acts of hospitality on the Day of Judgment.
8. Your life is not your own, and your service to others should reflect Christ’s service to you.
9. It does not require extravagance or a big budget, though these things are good signs of zeal.
10. Working hard at your job to have to give to others is both wise and scriptural (Eph 4:28).
11. Buying a house with room to lodge or entertain out-of-town visitors or brethren is good.
12. Training your children is a command, and it is crucial for comfortably entertaining strangers.
13. If you fear conversation, then gently ask questions. Most enjoy talking about themselves.
14. We will have more visitors, and we should be eager and ready to open houses and wallets.
15. Your efforts in this area are a great boon to the gospel and a great help to church and pastor.
16. How about a church facility with furnished suites for visitors for long or short lodging?

Genesis 18:

- 1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;
- 2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,
- 3 And said, **My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:**
- 4 **Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:**
- 5 **And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant.** And they said, So do, as thou hast said.
- 6 And **Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.**
- 7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it.
- 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

Genesis 19:

- 1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;
- 2 And he said, **Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways.** And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.
- 3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and **he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.**

Genesis 25:

- 10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.
- 11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.
- 12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.
- 13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:
- 14 And let it come to pass, **that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.**
- 15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.
- 16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.
- 17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.
- 18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.
- 19 **And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.**
- 20 **And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.**
- 21 And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

Leviticus 19:

- 34 But **the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself;** for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 10:

18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and **loveth the stranger**, in giving him food and raiment.

19 **Love ye therefore the stranger**: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Judges 19:

15 And they turned aside thither, to go in and to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city: for **there was no man that took them into his house to lodging**.

2Kings 4:

8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and **she constrained him to eat bread**. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, **he turned in thither to eat bread**.

9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10 **Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither**.

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; **what is to be done for thee?** wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, **About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son**. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

Isaiah 58:

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that **thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?** when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Matthew 10:

40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive **a prophet's reward**; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive **a righteous man's reward**.

42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto **one of these little ones a cup of cold water** only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew 25:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: **I was a stranger, and ye took me in:**

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto **one of the least of these my brethren**, ye have done it unto me.

43 **I was a stranger, and ye took me not in:** naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Luke 14:

12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, **call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours;** lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for **thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**

Acts 2:

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, **as every man had need.**

Acts 4:

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but **they had all things common.**

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 11:

27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, **determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:**

30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 16:

15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Romans 12:

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; **given to hospitality**.

Romans 15:

26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem**.

1Timothy 5:

10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, **if she have lodged strangers**, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

1Timothy 3:

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, **given to hospitality**, apt to teach;

Titus 1:

8 But a **lover of hospitality**, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

1Peter 4:

9 **Use hospitality one to another without grudging**.

Conclusion:

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For Further Study:

1. "What About Tsunami Relief?" ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/what-about-tsunami-relief.pdf>.