

Hospitality on the Fly

by Julie Luetke

If your summer went like mine, you have been both guest and hostess. My summer also included "stranded traveler". I learned a few lessons from that experience.

God commands us to be hospitable. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13.

When stranded hundreds of miles from home, the hospitality of others becomes your focus. God knows travel is tiring. The man Jesus certainly tired from travel and appreciated the hospitality of others. Jesus also felt the hurt firsthand of having hospitality refused Himself and His disciples.

Our Savior was also a host, and the greatest example of showing hospitality. In Matthew 14, we learn that Jesus had compassion on the 5,000, healed their sick, and fed them. John 13 tells us that on the night Jesus was betrayed, He washed His disciples' feet.

I offer the use of the washing machine to my overnight guests, but a recent host did me one better. My host offered, then did my laundry: washed, dried, and folded it. That was a humbling act for both of us. A bit like feet washing.

Here is a little hospitality survey:

1. I'll make an excuse so I cannot help.
2. I will be nice and invite them to dinner, but I won't like it.
3. We'll get through it and it might even be fun.
4. Let me do whatever is needed, because Jesus said that showing love to others is showing love to Him.

Invited guests are a joy to have. We call that entertaining and we get the glory. Hospitality is different. Hospitality is an act of kindness and the glory goes to God.

Have you been asked to go to the airport in the middle of the night to pick up an uninvited guest? I recently asked someone to do that and it helped me see how much I was asking. A relative came to my aid, but would I love a stranger that much?

Jesus asked through James, "If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?"

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:12.

Next time someone needs your help, take a deep breath, ask God for the right attitude, and embrace the occasion.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40





Season: Summer/Pentecost

Video: 13. Christmas or Chaos-mas

Devotions: 111. AGAPE Defined!

186. Beauty for Ashes

Prayer: 27. Dear Merciful Father, You alone know how much I love my pet...

Super Girl: 103. The other day a friend dropped by unannounced...

Scripture References: 2 Samuel 17:29; 2 Kings 4:10; Proverbs 31:20; Matthew 25:35; Romans 15:25; 1 Corinthians 16:15; 2 Corinthians 9:1; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 3:14; Hebrews 6:10

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