



PART 2: THE HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE

Sermon Notes

Text: Luke 10:25-37; 14:12-14

Intro:

The Gospel story has implication for our whole life. Therefore, the story that we tell must be confirmed through our actions.

The word "Hospitality" means "Love for strangers"

Luke 14:12-14

"When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: 'You matter to me and to God.' You may think you are saying, 'Come over for a visit.' But what your guest hears is, 'I'm worth the effort.'" ~Max Lucado

Hospitality is about loving and welcoming the stranger

Hebrews 13:2

Our lack of welcome for strangers is often a symptom of forgetting that we were once strangers.

Leviticus 19:33-34

Hospitality requires us to move beyond a focus on fellowship

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It is possible for a church to become fellowship focussed: everything is designed for insiders.

The most common question in a fellowship focussed church is "What do the people in our church need?" Hospitality also asks "what do the people NOT in our church need?"

Hospitality is different than worldly tolerance

Tolerance says, you're free to believe what you want to believe as long as your beliefs don't infringe on my freedom.

Hospitality means we adjust our actions to make space for people who think, act and believe differently than us.

"True tolerance does not involve accepting every viewpoint as true and valid; it involves treating with love and humility someone whose opinions you believe to be untrue and invalid" ~John Dickson

How does your worldview teach you to treat people who are radically different than you?

Romans 15:7

The Hospitality Challenge: Invite into your life someone who is radically different than you, even if just for a moment.

Hospitality in action: The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

Jesus identified the expert in the law not as the hero, but as the victim who needed a neighbour to save him. Jesus is the Good Samaritan who, at great expense to himself, saved us. Now we can go do likewise for others.

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday July 24, 2016 - Pastor Dave Funk

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. When was the last time you were in a totally uncomfortable or new situation? Did anyone help you feel welcome? What was that experience like?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Luke 14:1-23. What does this passage say about hospitality? How did the guests of the party define hospitality? How did Jesus? What does the parable in the second half of the chapter tell us about God's hospitality?
2. What is the difference between fellowship and hospitality? How do churches become "fellowship focussed"? What is the danger of a fellowship focussed church? How can our church strike a healthy balance between fellowship and hospitality?
3. Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). What does this parable tell us about hospitality?

Application:

1. Do the Hospitality Challenge: Invite into your life someone who is radically different than you, even if just for a moment.

Prayer:

1. Pray for opportunities to love and welcome strangers.
2. Other Requests
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