



• MATTHEW 11:28-30 THEN JESUS SAID, "COME TO ME, ALL OF YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND CARRY HEAVY BURDENS, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. 29 TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU. LET ME TEACH YOU, BECAUSE I AM HUMBLE AND GENTLE AT HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 FOR MY YOKE IS EASY TO BEAR, AND THE BURDEN I GIVE YOU IS LIGHT."

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

**COME TO THE
HOUSE**

• I INVITED COMPLETE STRANGERS OVER FOR DINNER

• HOW ABOUT STRANGERS SHOWING UP AT YOUR HOUSE?

- **GENESIS 18:1-8** THE LORD APPEARED AGAIN TO ABRAHAM NEAR THE OAK GROVE BELONGING TO MAMRE. ONE DAY ABRAHAM WAS SITTING AT THE ENTRANCE TO HIS TENT DURING THE HOTTEST PART OF THE DAY. 2 HE LOOKED UP AND NOTICED THREE MEN STANDING NEARBY. WHEN HE SAW THEM, HE RAN TO MEET THEM AND WELCOMED THEM, BOWING LOW TO THE GROUND.
 - 3 "MY LORD," HE SAID, "IF IT PLEASURES YOU, STOP HERE FOR A WHILE. 4 REST IN THE SHADE OF THIS TREE WHILE WATER IS BROUGHT TO WASH YOUR FEET. 5 AND SINCE YOU'VE HONORED YOUR SERVANT WITH THIS VISIT, LET ME PREPARE SOME FOOD TO REFRESH YOU BEFORE YOU CONTINUE ON YOUR JOURNEY."
 - "ALL RIGHT," THEY SAID. "DO AS YOU HAVE SAID."
 - 6 SO ABRAHAM RAN BACK TO THE TENT AND SAID TO SARAH, "HURRY! GET THREE LARGE MEASURES OF YOUR BEST FLOUR, KNEAD IT INTO DOUGH, AND BAKE SOME BREAD." 7 THEN ABRAHAM RAN OUT TO THE HERD AND CHOSE A TENDER CALF AND GAVE IT TO HIS SERVANT, WHO QUICKLY PREPARED IT. 8 WHEN THE FOOD WAS READY, ABRAHAM TOOK SOME YOGURT AND MILK AND THE ROASTED MEAT, AND HE SERVED IT TO THE MEN. AS THEY ATE, ABRAHAM WAITED ON THEM IN THE SHADE OF THE TREES.

- **PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS:**

- ABRAHAM IS EAGER TO SHOW HOSPITALITY. (NOTICE VS. 2, 6, 7)
- IT WAS ABRAHAM'S CHOICE TO OFFER HOSPITALITY
- ABRAHAM OFFERS HOSPITALITY WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED.
- HOSPITALITY IS DISRUPTIVE
- TRUE HOSPITALITY HONORS YOUR GUEST.

- **WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?**

THE BIBLICAL NOTION OF HOSPITALITY IS FOCUSED ON HOW WE WILL LIVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM US. THE NEW TESTAMENT WORD FOR "HOSPITALITY" THAT IS TYPICALLY USED LITERALLY MEANS "LOVE OF STRANGERS."

- THE PRACTICE OFTEN INVOLVED THREE THINGS: FOOD, LODGING (OR BEING WELCOMED INTO A FAMILY SPACE), AND PROTECTION. HOSPITALITY'S ELEMENTS OF FOOD, WELCOME INTO FAMILY SPACE, AND PROTECTION ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE, INCLUDING IN DESCRIPTIONS OF CREATION, REDEMPTION, AND NEW CREATION.

CREATION: GENESIS 1-2 REVEALS WAYS IN WHICH HOSPITALITY IS AT THE HEART OF GOD'S CREATION OF HUMANITY.

- GOD PROVIDES FOOD FOR HUMANITY (GEN. 1:29).
- GOD ALSO PLACES HUMANITY WITHIN GOD'S NEWLY MADE GARDEN, PROVIDING A PARTICULAR PLACE FOR THEM WHILE ALSO OPENING UP ALL OF GOD'S CREATION TO THEM (GEN. 1:28).
- ADDITIONALLY, GOD PROVIDES FOR THE SAFETY OF HUMANITY BY WARNING THEM NOT TO EAT FROM ONE OF THE TREES AT THE CENTER OF THE GARDEN (GEN. 2:15-17) AND BY CREATING HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE WORK THAT GOD CREATED FOR THEM (GEN. 2:18-25).

REDEMPTION: WHILE DIFFERENT IN APPEARANCE, THE SAME THREE ELEMENTS OF HOSPITALITY ARE EXPRESSED IN OUR REDEMPTION ACCOUNT.

- JESUS PROVIDES FOOD IN THE FORM OF THE LAST SUPPER, BY WHICH HE INTRODUCES A NEW COVENANT (LUKE 22:14-20).
- JESUS WELCOMES HIS DISCIPLES INTO HIS FAMILY SPACE BY TAKING THE ROLE OF A SERVANT AND WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET (JOHN 13:1-17) AND BY TELLING THEM HE IS GOING AHEAD OF THEM TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR THEM IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE (JOHN 14:1-4).
- JESUS ALSO EXTENDS HOSPITALITY BY SEEKING TO PROTECT HIS DISCIPLES BY LAYING DOWN HIS OWN LIFE FOR THEM (JOHN 10:14-18) AND BY PROMISING THEM THE SPIRIT, WHO WILL GUIDE THEM INTO ALL TRUTH (JOHN 15-16).

NEW CREATION: THE BIBLE ENDS WITH A PICTURE OF HOSPITALITY AS WELL.

- THE TREE OF LIFE GROWS ALONGSIDE THE GREAT RIVER IN THE CITY OF GOD, BEARING TWELVE CROPS OF FRUIT EACH YEAR, AND ITS LEAVES ARE GIVEN FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS (REV. 22:1-5).
- GOD ALSO EXTENDS HOSPITALITY BY MAKING GOD'S HOME AND OUR HOME THE SAME (REV. 21:1-5).
- GOD WELCOMES THE KINGS OF THE WORLD AND THEIR SPLENDOR INTO THE NEW JERUSALEM, INDICATING THAT THE GATES OF THE CITY WILL NEVER BE SHUT (REV. 21:22-27). AND IN THIS NEW CITY, ALL THREAT TO THE FLOURISHING OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND GOD'S CREATION HAS BEEN REMOVED; ALL FEAR IS GONE (REV. 22:15).

HOSPITALITY AND THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

- *“SHARE WITH THE SAINTS IN THEIR NEEDS; PURSUE HOSPITALITY” (ROMANS 12:13).*
- *“DON’T NEGLECT TO SHOW HOSPITALITY, FOR BY DOING THIS SOME HAVE WELCOMED ANGELS AS GUESTS WITHOUT KNOWING IT” (HEBREWS 13:2).*
- *“BE HOSPITABLE TO ONE ANOTHER WITHOUT COMPLAINING” (1 PETER 4:9).*

HOSPITALITY THE LOVE OF STRANGERS.

- WHEN WE WERE STRANGERS AND ALIENS, GOD TOOK US IN.
- WHEN WE WERE WITHOUT A HOME AND FAMILY, GOD BROUGHT US INTO HIS.
- WHEN WE WERE WITHOUT HOPE IN THE WORLD, GOD ADOPTED US AS HIS CHILDREN.
- IN THE ULTIMATE ACT OF HOSPITALITY, GOD PROVIDED A WAY TO WELCOME US THROUGH THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST.
- GOD IS ULTIMATELY HOSPITABLE, AND THEREFORE HOSPITALITY IS A CHARACTERISTIC BUILT INTO THE SPIRITUAL DNA OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS DIVINE HOSPITALITY.



HOSPITALITY AND PUTTING OUR FAITH ON DISPLAY

- 1. WE ARE SPEAKING ABOUT OUR PROVISION. - EXERCISING HOSPITALITY WILL COST US SOMETHING.**
- 2. WE ARE SPEAKING ABOUT OUR CONTENTMENT. - HOSPITALITY REQUIRES US TO SHARE WITH OTHERS**
- 3. WE ARE SPEAKING ABOUT OUR FUTURE. - GOD IS NOT MERELY REDEEMING INDIVIDUALS!**



