

We are gifted with a promise

To accepting and offer hospitality

“Christ as Our Model in Accepting and Offering Hospitality” and “We Are a Gift With a Promise,”

We are to offer our selves as a gift (everything that we are and we have is a gift from God) we ourselves are a gift in the sense that God first gifted us with His unconditional love.

When we offer and receive hospitality we tend to do that to people we are comfortable with, but in admonishing the teachings and the ways of Jesus Christ, we are to receive as well as offer it to whomsoever comes our way.

We see that displayed in our scripture found **in Luke 7: 36- 8:3.**

At the same time, Jesus being welcomed as a guest, He turns around and *extends* hospitality Himself.

Jesus used *table* fellowship to show what the Kingdom of God should be like

Showing us not to neglect showing hospitality *to strangers*, for by showing hospitality we would extend the Kingdom of God to those who are seeking.

In Leviticus 19:34, the Lord tells the children of Israel, “*The alien who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*”

This verse reminds us of those times that we have all experienced.

When we were the strangers I can tell you of many times I have felt that way in the Church and in this society.

We have all been to those parties where we didn’t know anyone, and so we just stood in the corner and stared off into space or have been in those foreign countries or states or even neighborhoods where we didn’t know the culture or the language or the laws of the residents. It doesn’t feel good to be a stranger in a foreign place.

Does it?

Jesus calls us to an exemplary life of hospitality in this generation and likens this call to that which took place in Simons house.

Those who have and those who have not can and should be extended hospitality.

Another aspect of giving and receiving hospitality is the impact it would have on the receiver

We see how this woman's faith was strengthened because Jesus received hospitality from her and forgave her sins

What that may look like (receiving and offering hospitality):

- Accepting aliens Leviticus 19:34 (Accepting people we are not used to as their lives are different from ours)
- Open to dialogue with people of other faiths and religious beliefs (Be willing to accept their hospitality) as demonstrated by Jesus in so doing we extend the Kingdom of God to them. Having tea or coffee with someone who does not believe or look like you.
- Accepting not only from people like us but those that don't look like us, think or even have the same social upbringing and values.
- Be intentional and purposeful about ethnic, social, economic etc diversity to reflect the Kingdom of God Revelation 7:9 (gives us a view of the Banquet table with Jesus we see that acceptance what is offered to all from all Nations. (Chinese and their all kinds of food, the vegetarians, the meat eaters etc.
- A Situation might arise where the hospitality we offer might and would be taken for granted, but that should not stop or deter us but press on Just as Jesus, with the religious leaders questioning if he is aware of who this woman was that was not on the guest list.

As a Brethren

The teachings and the ways of Jesus demonstrate to us in the passage about Simon who is hosting a banquet for Jesus and the least kind of person you would expect on the guest list a prostitute, showed up and did what Simon should have done to Jesus, wash His feet and oils it, but

We see an uninvited guest at this banquet offering a form of hospitality that was least expected.

Someone whose way of life is shameful and disgraceful to society can and still has a sense of humanity in them a God given attributes.

As followers of Jesus who seek to continue in His teachings putting into practice the example set forth for us and not neglect anyone based on his origin (national,

neighborhood, cultural etc) but to open our homes our lives and be willing to offer and accept hospitality from people we don't know.

By so doing we might lead many to accepting forgiveness of sins. I want to encourage all of us to be open to offering and accepting hospitality even to those we would not feel comfortable accepting from showing ourselves to be following in the teachings of Christ.

Our hospitality has a potential to touch more than we can by our ability touch or reach.

By Giving a gift of our selves to the World we would experience a growth as a Church that we are anticipating or hoping for, we would show the other side of Christ that the World longed for.

The question for us today is.

When last have you shown hospitality to someone you least expect? Or

When last did you accept hospitality from someone you don't know and unsure of?

Go from here and allow God to use you to continue in the ways of Christ Jesus.