



Encouragement in Hospitality:
Seeing the Value In It!
March 26, 2017

Text: 1 Thes 5:11; Rom 12:13; 1 Pe 4:8-10

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1Thes 5:11)

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Rom 12:13)

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (1Pe 4:8-10)

Encouragement is the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope. This word comes from the word *paraklésis* (a calling to one's aid). As Christians we will be called to or encounter someone who needs to be encouraged at a time when you may need it yourself. This may not produce the results you are expecting but the fact that you tried will please God. And by the way, your results may not be what you expect. Remember, His thoughts and ways are not ours (Is 55:8). Encouragement without action and follow-up could be categorized as just having a moment!

Hospitality is rendering unto others what God has given us, including comfort, sharing our food, and friendship. This word comes from the Greek word *philoxenia* (*philo* "love" and *xenia* "stranger"). This word is a perfect description because we must show love for the stranger. This is what Jesus did for us! *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (Jn 3:16). Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world (Eph 2:12). Here we have love (Christ) and stranger (us) equaling hospitality!!*

ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES OF HOSPITALITY:

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

Jesus answered, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead. By chance a priest came down that way. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to that place, looked at him and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. Then he set him on his own donkey and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day when he departed, he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said to him, 'Take care of him. I will repay you whatever else you spend when I return.'

“Now which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Imagine This:

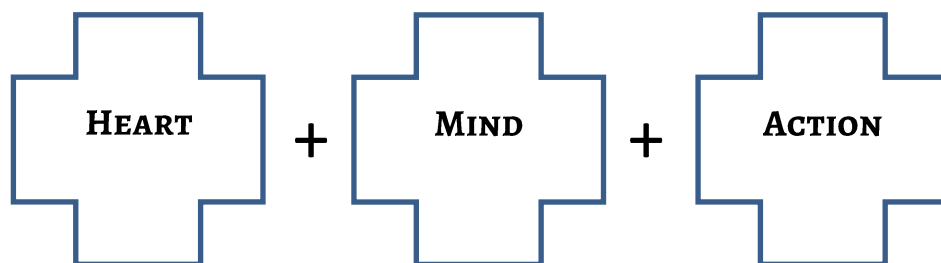
You visit a church or home and the person you encounter was cold, angry looking and just unapproachable. How would you feel? How would this affect you going forward? Would you put every Christian in the same category? Would you be done with the church or all its people? Could you ever accept another invitation?

The End Result:

This will push and keep God’s people away (saved and unsaved), miss opportunities for individual and kingdom growth, and hinder the development of present and future friendships.

SIMPLE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALITY:

1. Love God - *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matt 22:37)*
2. Love God’s people - *And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:39)*
3. Be able to smile – Did you know it takes 17 muscles to smile and 42 to frown?
4. Be able to speak
5. Have a place for gathering



The heart is the search engine which contains our motivates and attitudes for being hospitable or not.

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Cor 1:21-22)

The mind is the blue print for how to approach and proceed in hospitality. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Phil 4:8)

Our actions are our action for keeping the commandment of hospitality. *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror (Jam 1:22-23)*

SHOW HOSPITALITY BECAUSE:

WIDE IS THE GATE

Enter at the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who are going through it, because small is the gate and narrow is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matt 7:13-14)

- Hell was created for **Satan** and his **fallen** angels not God's people.
- Unless we extend the olive branch of salvation, hell will be their eternal home.
- It's your move!

WE'RE **ENTRUSTED** WITH THE GOSPEL

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge" (1 Tim 6:20)

- If God has entrusted us with his precious people, then we must **embrace** and **pursue** them hard with love.
- In addition, He has entrusted us to give them the Gospel. They can't **get** it if we don't **give** it!
- It's your move!

LISTENING IS ESSENTIAL

And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (Mk 4:9)

- One of the most important types of communication is between human beings. The ability to talk is a must in some cases, but the ability to listen (attentively) is **key** in all cases!
- God gave us **two** ears and **one** mouth and this was by design because He wants us to listen more than talk! Did you know there are 73 verses in the Bible regarding listening and only 55 on speaking?
- I am a person who loves to talk but over the years, as I have grown in the Lord, listening has become my most **powerful** tool.
- I have noticed that people who speak very little normally have something profound to say.
- Before you open your mouth in any situation please consider these scriptures because what you say could affect someone's life:
 - a. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. (Ex 14:14)
 - b. The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice (Prov 12:15)
 - c. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent (Prov 17:28)
 - d. Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God (Jam 1:19)
- It's your move!

WE'RE **CALLED** FOR A PURPOSE

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another (Gal 5:13; Matt 22:14)

- There is a great call on the Christian to grow the kingdom of God.
- Believe it or not a simple gesture as “*good morning*” can go a long way in increasing the kingdom.
- This calling should not be taken lightly because people are dying **physically, psychologically** and **spiritually**. Playtime is over!
- It’s your move!

OPPORTUNITIES ARE PLENTIFUL

Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph 5:16-17)

- There are opportunities all around us to **invest** and **invite**. All we need to do is open our eyes and mouths.
- This simple technique, along with some praying, was helpful in getting your name in the Book of Life! So, let’s share the **wealth**.
- By the way, not investing and inviting speaks volumes as well!
- It’s your move

MAKING DISCIPLES IS A COMMAND

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19)

- The main premise of hospitality is to make disciples. By doing this, we take back what the devil is constantly **stealing**, God’s people.
- One lost is too many in God’s eyes! (Lk 15:3-7)
- We need to see things as He does, not as the world does. The world uses phrases like: “...not worth it,” “...never amount to nothing,” “...will end up either in jail or dead” and Bishop’s favorite, “it don’t take all that!”
- Yes, some of the people we will meet may not come from stable homes, live in the nice neighborhoods, drive fancy cars or have a top ten career job, but they are still very important to God. Do not pass them by!
- It’s your move!

ETERNAL LIFE IS GUARANTEED

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever (1 Jn 2:17)

- Being apart from God is not what He wants, therefore we all have work to do.
- **Hell** is a real place and it is not a **party**! We need to ensure this part is not overlooked.

- Sometime we **focus** too much on the good (heaven) and forget the bad (hell). If we switched the focus a little, I believe it would **fuel** us to press into reaching the lost and even re-energize the saved.
- Isolation is a hard and lonely place to be. The enemy is at his best during this time.
- It's your move!

FINAL THOUGHT:

Hospitality may not be your spiritual gift and you may not like to talk to your neighbors, meet new people, or greet strangers with a kind word and a smile but it does not give us the right to sit on the sideline hoping someone else will do it. Jesus said we will do greater works than Him (Jn 14:12-14). Our work is to spread the Gospel all through the world and one of the tools we should use is hospitality. Saints, March Madness is ending in six days but lost souls are still at play. It's your move!