

What's for supper  
Or  
Hospitality, the little used opportunity in a lonely world

Intro: I would like to think about the almost forgotten, but wonderful ministry of hospitality in the busy world in which we live.

### I. Hospitality defined

Hospitality is the action and personality characteristic of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.

**Thought:** Just as we take care of our own needs we must be open to meeting the needs of strangers.

A person who is hospitable gives practical help to anyone who is in need, friend or stranger, believer or unbeliever. He freely offers his time, his resources such as via the dinner table, and his encouragement to meet the needs of others.

When is the last time you had you had someone over or helped someone who could not repay you? Be careful you don't miss a God moment just because you did not want to be hospitable.

### II. A Biblical example of hospitality John 12:1-8

Here we note three general things about hospitality

A. There was the serving of others V 2 *"A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus sat at the table with him."*

**Thought:** A determined man with a rusty wrench can do much more than a loafer with all the tools in the machine shop.

B. There was the worship of giving which involved two areas. The giving of oneself and the giving of one's most costly possessions. V 3

*"Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with fragrance."*

**Thought:** Many times we are tempted to give others less and keep the best for ourselves.

C. There was also selfishness, jealousy and arrogance by the ones who did not practice this hospitality themselves. V 4-6

*But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples--the one who would betray him--said, "That perfume was worth a small fortune. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor."*

Not that he cared for the poor--he was a thief who was in charge of the disciples' funds, and he often took some for his own use.

III. Some practical benefits to the body and work of Christ

A. It removes loneliness

**Thought:** Many Christians suffer from loneliness because they are sitting and waiting to be served rather than serving others.

Think about it like this, People who practice hospitality don't have time to become lonely people because they have to much to do in service to others to sit around and be lonely.

B. It can meet needs one might be unaware of.

C. It can be used to build bridges to both the lost as well as the saved

A bridge to the lost that opens the way for the gospel vehicle to cross to their heart.

**Thought:** It has been said, people don't care about how much we know until they know how much we care and hospitality is one method of showing that.

Also a bridge of encouragement to the saved

D. It opens the door to church growth

**Thought:** A church made up of people who are hospitable on the outside will be a church that is hospitable on the inside and people will want to come to it.

E. It may allow us a potential ministry to angels

*Hebrews 13:2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!*

F. It blesses God because it shows obedience to his commands and He is always blessed when we obey.

G. It testifies to an alert and active faith and service.

**Thought:** Those who practice this special ministry, are people who are observant to the opportunities around them and then they do something about it.

IV. Hindrances to the practice of this special ministry

A. Selfishness and a misers attitude which says "I don't want to share"

**Thought:** Of all the four letter words, self is the worst

B. Prejudice is a cause because it says "I won't share because I don't like that person."

**Thought:** A closed mind is like a locked and shuttered house- It is secure and quite, but also dark and gloomy.

Prejudice can easily keep us from some good friendships

C. Fear is another hindrance because we say to ourselves,

I can't have someone in because they might not like what I have to share, Or the fear that I don't have very much to share

**Thought:** Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the mastery of in and we master it by going ahead and practicing hospitality even if we feel funny or insecure about it.

Finally today I would like to look at

V. The promise to those who dare to practice hospitality. Luke 14:12-14

*Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a dinner," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will repay you by inviting you back.*

*Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the godly, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."*

The ministry of hospitality can be a source of much blessing. My question is who do you plan on inviting over this week to help you get started on this really wonderful behind the scenes ministry?

**In closing:** Speaking of hospitality, have you taken advantage of the wonderful hospitality character of Jesus? He invites anyone who wants to stop by the cross and be saved and fed. To do that read and follow the directions below. If you do, you will be welcomed home

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.  
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at [lapeerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerchurch@gmail.com) Subject line: (Salvation)