

I. Sometimes the *_Lord_* appears in “*_stranger_*” form

I Thess 5:14; Mark 10:45a;
Gen 12:1; 16:10-29;
Col 2:11; Gen 17:1-5;
Luke 24:13; Matt 25:31-39

A. Such appearances are not always
obvious, *_anticipated_*,
convenient, *_cool_*

B. Our *_response_* to
strangers reveals our heart
for *_God_*

I Cor 4:5; Matt 12:34b-37;
Rev 20:11-12; Jer 17:10;
Ex 23:9; Lev 19:10, 33-34;
Isa 58:6-7; Ps 146:8-9

II. Disciples show *_hospitality_* to
strangers

Heb 13:2

A. *_Hospitable_* hearts show
themselves by:

1. Sharing *_shelter_*
2. Giving *_esteem_*
3. *_Self_*-involvement
4. Making it *_sacrificial_*
5. *_Serving_* them

Matt 25:35-38, 40

B. *_Hospitality_* is not:

1. For *_gain_*
2. To *_impress_*
3. *_Fellowship_* with others in
our *_family_*
4. Because we're “*_superior_*”

Luke 14:12-14; Acts 2:46;
I Pet 4:9; III John 5-6

III. *_Hospitality_* flows from the
Father first

A. He *_loved_* us when we were
strangers

Eph 2:12; Luke 15:20;
I John 4:10

B. Now, we are no longer
strangers

Eph 2:13, 19

¹The LORD appeared again to Abraham while he was camped near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day about noon, as Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent, ² he suddenly noticed three men standing nearby. He got up and ran to meet them, welcoming them by bowing low to the ground. ³ "My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. ⁴ Rest in the shade of this tree while my servants get some water to wash your feet. ⁵ Let me prepare some food to refresh you. Please stay awhile before continuing on your journey." "All right," they said. "Do as you have said." ⁶ So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick! Get three measures of your best flour, and bake some bread." ⁷ Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a fat calf and told a servant to hurry and butcher it. ⁸ When the food was ready, he took some cheese curds and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them there beneath the trees.

Care Group Questions

“Guest Work”
Text: Genesis 18:1-8

Pastor Dave Bechtel

November 12, 2006

1. What experiences do you have in your family (recent or from childhood) concerning “getting ready for guests”? How did your family treat guests when they were with you? Was your childhood home a model of hospitality? Is your current one?
2. Do you recall the background of this story in Abraham’s life (what is chapter 17 about)? How is Abraham doing spiritually at this point in his journey?
3. It doesn’t appear that Abraham recognizes that one of the three men he greets is the Lord. For what reason might the Lord appear “in disguise”? Reading ahead in the passage, when do you think Abraham realized one of his guests was the Lord?
4. How was the Lord’s visit to Abraham not obvious, anticipated, convenient?
5. List as many specifics as you can from the text that display Abraham’s hospitality to his three guests. (Do you remember any of the “five S’s”?)
6. Which of the specific aspects of hospitality means the most to you when you are a guest of another? Have you had some memorable good experiences with the hospitality of someone toward you?
7. How is it true that God is, and has been, hospitable to us (when we were strangers)?
8. How are you personally planning on being hospitable this coming Sunday toward Ron and Denver and the potential guests we may have with us in our services? (Be practical and specific in your answers.)
9. What are some things your small group can do to be hospitable to the guests or newcomers who come into your path?

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