

## **CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY**

### **From Dilemma to Delight**

*"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"*

Matthew 6:20

### **What Is Needed To be Hospitable?**

**Do you have what it takes?**

**Proverbs 15:13** *"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance:"*

**II Corinthians 9:7** *"God loveth a cheerful giver."*

**I Samuel 16:7** *"... for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."*

### **Excuses, Excuses, Excuses**

**Would Jesus have uttered any of these common excuses?**

- My house is too small.
- My house isn't decorated yet.
- My dinnerware isn't good enough.
- I'm not a good cook.
- I'm too disorganized.
- My mother never entertained.
- I don't have enough money.
- I don't know whom to ask.
- We don't like the same people.
- People don't come on time.
- People don't leave on time.
- People never ask us back.



## **Satan's Greatest Deterrent to Hospitality**

### **Your standard of comparison**

We most often compare our perceived weak points to others' strengths and feel inadequate because we get "caught up" in "keeping up" with the "Jones'."

We often compare our house, our talent, our social status and even our heart to that of others and feel too inferior to entertain.

#### **Try Imagining:**

The poorest little village in Mexico (or anywhere your imagination allows) where the average family lives in a 10' by 10' one room shack made of pieces of old board, tin and even cardboard. The floors are dirt. Six people live in the single shelter. There is no running water, no electricity, no bathroom, no sink or shower, no stove or refrigerator, no laundry machine, no windows or door, no beds only a blanket for each member to curl up in on the floor and the furniture is nothing more than chunks of wood to sit on.

Now visually transport your dwelling place into the middle of that village complete with your electricity, air conditioning, running water, lights, bedrooms, TV and Stereo, table and chairs, carpet, furnace, hot water tank, windows and locks on the doors. Do you still feel poor and inferior? "Well not exactly."

Why not?

**The only thing that has changed is your standard of comparison.**

#### **Ask yourself:**

Now that I'm the "Jones'" in town, will I be more hospitable?

It is very doubtful because since you couldn't be trusted where you are, why now would Jesus entrust you with more compassion?

**Matthew 25:21** *"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."*



**If you have more than Jesus had,  
you have more than enough.**

**John 14:12** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, (S)he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall (s)he do also; and greater works than these shall (s)he do; ...”

**Do you have a house or place to meet?**

**Matthew 8:20** “And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”

**W.W.J.D.  
What Would Jesus Do?**

**If Jesus would have had a house:**

- The hungry would have been fed there
- The thirsty would have been given drink there
- The homeless would have lived there
- The sick would have been nursed back to health there
- The naked would have found clothes there
- Those in prison would have received letters from there
- The neighborhood children would have played there

**If Jesus would have had a house:**

- It would have been furnished with:
- Chairs He found broken and discarded and then fixed with glue and nails
- A table made from some weathered boards found at a demolition sight
- Pictures drawn by kids from the orphanage He visited daily
- Plants He dug out of the ground and put in flawed pots He got free from a potter
- Miss-matched dishes and cooking utensils He scrounged up at yard sales and flea markets
- Beds He found in the dumpster behind a newly renovated inn with quilts He was given by some old ladies at the nursing home

**If Jesus would have had a house:**

- He would have served all a simple meal of maybe cooked beans, rice or corn since He could go to a farm after harvest and glean and dry sacks of produce



### **If Jesus would have had a house:**

- It would have had a big welcome mat at the front door on which were written the words,  
*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest".*

### **If you have a place to live, and you do what Jesus would have done,**

*"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:" "Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." "Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?" "When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?" "Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?" "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:34-40*

### **What about you?**

#### **Underlying reasons why we don't entertain**

- Worry
- Fear of failure
- Pride
- Bitterness
- Selfishness
- Laziness

#### **Helpful Skills to Becoming a Lover of Hospitality**

- Be organized – Planning Notebook
- Be creative
- Use your sense of humor
- Be flexible
  - In planning the event
  - In planning the menu
  - In table setting
  - During the event itself
- Think through possible problems

## **The Conclusion to the Whole Matter**

**The lover of hospitality is loved by Jesus.**

*“ ... I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”*

**Matthew 11:29**