

# Hospitality

Illustration- I am here because people showed me hospitality- Sheila, Don

## 1. God has shown you hospitality

Rd Ps 23:5,6

- **v5- The King has 'prepared a table for you'**. David knew what it was to be banished from the King's table (1Sam 20:25), and the house of the Lord by Saul, so he found comfort that his real home was the real tabernacle, the King's palace & table. The King has invited us to eat at His table (see Heb 13:10 our altar from which we eat; Mt 22:2-10 invitation to God's banquet; Rev 19:7-9 blessed are those at the lambs wedding feast). Access, curtain torn.
- **v5 'In the presence of your enemies'**- He will honour you in the sight of those who despise you, in the full view of those with which you have no favour He will display His favour to you. You're His favourite. Joseph's coat is yours. You are already seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph 2:6 raised us up together, Jews & Gentiles and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ)
- **v5 'He anoints your head with oil'**- Rd Anointing a guest Manners & Customs pgs 313-314. Bedouin hospitality. My mint teas in Egypt. Sierra Leone lavish food given to us.
- **v5 'Your cup runs over'**- He spoils you with His love ' 1Jn 3:1 NIV-'How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God'- He does not hold back on His love for you- Rom 8:32 'how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?'-Reason we have been seated with Christ--'that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ' (Eph 2:7)
- **v6 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me'** -not hounded by Saul & his men or by our sins, but by the 'hound of heaven'- God's love that will not give up on us. The Hound of Heaven a Christian poem written by English poet Francis Thompson sometime before his death in 1907. It was an influence on J. R. R. Tolkien. The Neumann Press Book of Verse, 1988 says about it:

'The name is strange. It startles one at first. It is so bold, so new, so fearless. It does not attract, rather the reverse. But when one reads the poem this strangeness disappears. The meaning is understood. As the hound follows the hare, never ceasing in its running, ever drawing nearer in the chase, with unhurrying and imperturbed pace, so does God follow the fleeing soul by His Divine grace. And though in sin or in human love, away from God it seeks to hide itself, Divine grace follows after, unwearingly follows ever after, till the soul feels its pressure forcing it to turn to Him alone in that never ending pursuit.'

- **V6 'And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever'**- forever belonging

## 2. We must show one another hospitality

Rd 1Pet 4:9- show hosp. to one another without grumbling

- Written by the one who had his feet washed by Jesus- he learned how to receive & give hospitality. Jesus said wash one another's feet= extreme hospitality.
- Hospitality starts even before someone steps into a meeting & doesn't end after the meeting- lifts, phonecalls, accompanying people, welcoming, chatting to those on their own, inviting back home for meals.
- 'without grumbling' Tony R's quote- Hospitality is 'making a person feel at home when that's where you wish they were'. Someone once said: "Some folks make you feel at home. Others make you wish you were."
- Wrong concepts- 'Man's home is his castle'- fortification, CCTV nation. Curtain is

torn, access- Christian's home is to be an oasis for the thirsty. Cain 'am I my brother's keeper?' The answer is 'yes'

- Open homes- early church & spread of gospel- koinonia-sharing all they had with each other.
- The importance of food- peace covenants were sealed with a meal- seals friendship. Alpha success. Use cooking for God's glory. Inviting visitors back for meals.

### **3. We must show the world hospitality**

Rd Lk 14:7-14 -invite those who cannot repay

- Parable of unjust steward- Lk 16:9- 'make friends for yourselves with unrighteous mammon that when you fail they may receive you into an everlasting home'. First last & last first- the nobodies will have mansions, so let's be nice to them.
- Youth after tent outreach- 'why are you doing this?'
- Heb 13:2- Some have entertained angels unawares (Abraham Gen 18;1ff; Lot Gen 19:1ff). Treat everyone as Jesus. Asda- every customer treat as the secret examiner 'would you like help packing/casback?'-Matt 25:43 -you did it to Christ.
- Love revolution, flower power, people are looking to belong & be loved- we have the goods to do it- let's do it!