

Week 18

Hospitality

“Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.”

– 1 Timothy 3:2

Paul planted many churches throughout Asia Minor. He left Timothy in Ephesus and Titus in Crete to lead these fledgling Christian communities, helping them to grow in faith. One of Paul’s instructions to Timothy and Titus was that they should select overseers from the congregation to be leaders. The passage cited above represents part of the qualifications Paul wants Timothy to look for in the men that will lead. Being hospitable is one of these qualifications. The Greek word translated “hospitable” can be literally translated as “lover of strangers.” Paul wants the leaders of the church to reflect the same attitude of God toward strangers. When we love strangers, we recognize that we have more in common with them as struggling humans than the things that distinguish us from them.

God’s message of salvation, his love and mercy, is most naturally depicted in the act of “loving strangers.” In our calendar-tangled culture, we struggle to find time to eat with our own families and the prospect of sharing hospitality with our friends ranks below many other commitments. When will we find time to be hospitable to strangers? Hospitality is a spiritual discipline much like prayer, Bible reading, fasting and meditation because its practice requires focused dedication.

In order to show hospitality to “strangers” we must consider who are the strangers in our life? Who are the people that we don’t naturally think to invite into our homes? Who are the people that are least like us? Leave the ninety-nine close friends and go searching for the lost stranger, then invite them in.

This Week

- Make a list of those people who are the “strangers” in your life. These can be people you know, but who have never been into your home and shared hospitality.
- Make specific plans to invite them. Don’t give up until it happens. Perhaps you can invite more than one person / family and expand the relationship network.
- Consider making hospitality a regular practice.

Week 18

May 2-8

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			2
Hebrews (5)				
Mon	Deu 3	Luke 21	Psa 86	3
Tue	Deu 4	Luke 22	Psa 87	4
Wed	Deu 5,6	Luke 23	Psa 88	5
Thr	Deu 7,8	Luke 24	Psa 89	6
Fri LTC	Deu 9,10	Acts 1	Psa 90	7
Sat LTC				8