

Acts 2:46-47 (the MSG)

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Hospitality

friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

Hospitality

friendliness, hospitableness, welcome, warm reception, helpfulness, neighbourliness, warmth, warm-heartedness, kindness, kind-heartedness, congeniality, geniality, sociability, conviviality, cordiality, amicability, amenability, generosity, liberality, bountifulness, open-handedness.

1 Peter 4:8-9

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. *Show hospitality to one another without grumbling*.

WHY HOSPITALITY?

1.) WE ARE CALLED TO SHOW HOSPITALITY BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT THE FATHER DOES

John 4: 16-17 And we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. God is love; whoever abides in love abides in God, and God in him. In this way, love has been perfected among us, so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment; for as He is, so are we in this world.

HE IS...

2.) PEOPLE LONG TO BELONG

Psalm 68:6 God sets the lonely in families...

3.) AS WE SERVE AND LOVE OTHERS, WE ARE SERVING AND LOVING GOD.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to *entertain strangers*, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Matthew 25:35-36 and 40

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, *I was a stranger and you invited me in*, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'...

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

4.) IT UNLOCKS THE MIRACULOUS & RELEASES PROVISION

Matthew 14:15-21 15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." 16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. 18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Hospitality is as much a spiritual thing as it is practical.

Practical hospitality is the expression of LOVE.

Important aspects of hospitality:

- Atmosphere
- Appeal to the Senses
- Planning and Preparation
- Partner with the Holy Spirit
- Get Practical

