

July 6,7 2019

“Hospitality”

Luke 14:7–15

Message by Rob Bashioum

Worship led by Laura Scharer

Music:

All Creatures	All Who Are Thirsty	Come To The Altar
The Lion And The Lamb	All The Poor And Powerless	

Sermon:

Christian hospitality is love of the stranger

“In light of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and return, Christian hospitality is the intentional, responsible and caring act of welcoming or visiting, in either public or private places, those who are strangers, enemies, distressed, without regard for reciprocation.”

Arthur Sutherland

Kingdom hospitality expects nothing in return.

Kingdom hospitality is attractive to our world.

The Christian faith spread in the early centuries, despite the Romans trying to stamp it out, because of “ordinary” people living in an extraordinary way: caring for people—especially the poor—even when they were not related to them; giving people medical treatment, education and so on (which had been reserved for the rich or the elite before). People were astonished. They didn’t know it was possible to live like that. “What has always attracted people to the Gospel of Jesus is communities and individuals that, in the power of the Spirit, are actually living the Gospel. There is a quality of generosity, kindness, gentleness, overflowing love, hospitality and joy—not a shallow “happiness” but a genuine and radiant trust in God for everything—which cannot be faked and which remains powerfully attractive.”

NT Wright

“Early Christian writers claimed that transcending social and ethnic differences by sharing meals, homes, and worship with persons of different backgrounds was a proof of the truth of the Christian faith. Even a superficial review of the first seventeen centuries of church history reveals the importance of hospitality to the spread and credibility of the gospel, to transcending

national and ethnic distinction in the church, and to Christian care for the sick, strangers, and pilgrims.”

Christine Pohl

Kingdom hospitality points to Christ himself

“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

Matthew 25:31-40

“Membership in the kingdom of God is intimately linked to the practice of hospitality in this life.”

Rosaria Butterfield

Ask God to give us His heart to see the least.

Look someone in the eye and say hello.

Create space and engage people.