



ALL SAINTS

Sermon Discussion Guide

Practices of a Missionary People for a Secular Age: Hospitality

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

INTRO Questions:

What's your default definition of hospitality? How does the gospel compel you to refine that definition?

Background:

Tim underscored, once more, that we live in the age of late modern secularism. It's a time when society pressures us to keep religion private and not allow our beliefs about God (or lack thereof) to infiltrate our public lives. However, if we are to re-evangelize our broader culture, the secular West, practicing hospitality is an integral component of gospel proclamation and gospel transformation.

READ the text aloud

DISCUSS:

- 1) Luke 7:36-39—Tim emphasized how the woman, a prostitute, was all alone, exposed and hopeless. Why are these problems so pervasive in our society? In the church?
- 2) Luke 7:36-39—How can you alleviate the type of shame, isolation and hopelessness you encounter in people around you? Be specific, with specific people in mind.
- 3) Luke 14:15-20—What is the warning implicit in these verses? How is this particularly relevant to us, as Austinites? How does busyness impede both showing and receiving hospitality?
- 4) Luke 14: 21-24—Discuss the description of the people the master seeks for his feast after the initial invitees reject his hospitality.
- 5) Luke 14: 24—This is a troubling verse when you read it in the context of the story, and the contrasting description of the initial guest list and the final guest list. Warnings of this nature are common in Christ's parables. Discuss the role of these warnings in the life of a Christian, i.e. discuss how they actually function as instruments of grace.
- 6) Tim challenged us to think of God as a host, just as he is presented in Lk 14. And he underscored that God throws a banquet not because he *needs* guests but because he *wants* them. How might his change your perspective on God? On yourself?
- 7) Some people think of God primarily as judge. Some think of him primarily as healer. And Tim encouraged us to think of God primarily as host. What are the implications of these different views of God? How do they impact your motivation for coming to church, your purpose for being at church, and your mission when you leave church?

Conclusion/Application:

Hospitality is something best understood when experienced—both offering it and receiving it. But we who are *in Christ* have experienced the ultimate hospitality, adoption into God's family. So we must seek to serve and to welcome people into our homes, our lives, and our church. And we must do this consistently and sacrificially.

Luke 7:36-39 & Luke 14:15-24
English Standard Version (ESV)

^{ESV 36} One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

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^{ESV 15} When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶ But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' ¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' ²⁰ And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' ²² And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' ²³ And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"