

Hospitality

Sermon 52 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 13:2, 3

Last week we spoke about philadelphia – brotherly love.
Today, we talk about philozenia a lover of strangers.

I. The Privilege of Hospitality

A. The Historical Context

B. Early Church “Hospitality” Acts 4:32-35

They were under no compulsion to sell what they had.
This set the stage for the deceit of Annanias and Saphira.

C. The Practical Problem

Those who took advantage of the generosity.
The Didache (ca. 120 A.D.) says: *“Let every Apostle (traveling missionary) who comes to you be received as the Lord, but let him not stay more than one day, or if need be a second as well; but if he stays three days, he is a false prophet. And when an Apostle goes forth let him accept nothing but bread till he reach his night’s lodging; but if he asks for money, he is a false prophet.”*

D. Application – Loving strangers in today’s world

II. Remembering Prisoners

A. The Historical Context

B. A very Human Reason for Remembering Prisoners.

C. Our circumstances differ with the USA Justice System, but the Principle Remains

Early Christians were in constant danger of being persecuted.
Bribery and corruption was rampant.
Sometimes people would be imprisoned, just so the families would have to pay a bribe to some official.

The Apology of Aristides: (written about 150 A.D. by a Christian)

“If they hear that any of their number is imprisoned or oppressed for the name of their Messiah, all of them provide for his needs, and if it is possible that he may be delivered, they deliver him. If there is among them a man that is poor or needy, and they have not an abundance of necessities, they fast two or three days that they may supply the needy with their necessary food.”

The example in **Acts 24:25-27**

1. The corruption of the system.
2. The sovereignty of God.

III. Angels Unawares

“Angels unawares” is not so much an exhortation that you must take care of the traveler because he might actually be an angel in disguise.

- Abraham DID entertain angels and the Angel of the Lord.
- Lot did the same thing in Sodom.
- Many examples of angels visiting with men and women.

“Angels unawares” is part of “hospitality” and is used as a Biblical illustration.

Final Applications

1. Friendliness in the church
2. Willingness to help those in trouble
3. Willingness to “put ourselves out” for others
4. Willingness to give to the work of the ministry.
5. Willingness to minister.