

BETTER, TOGETHER!?

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Matthew 14:15-24 “When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ““Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

Hebrews 13:2 “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

Romans 12:13 “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

REFLECT

Can you bring to mind a memory of a wonderful experience of someone's gift of hospitality to you? Think through your memories and write down the details of the experience, about what you ate and drank or about other details that made the experience what it was.

QUESTION

The second scripture from Hebrews is somewhat mysterious! Yet the reality is that many people have had experiences with "strangers" that upon reflection, they have a sense that they may have had some kind of divine visitation. Have you every had such an experience? What was it like, and what impression did it leave with you?

ACTION

The 3rd scripture is a pretty clear instruction, because it seems a given that one tangible expression of the gospel is to extend generosity to those in need. Ask the Lord to bring to mind someone who might be blessed by sitting down and sharing a meal with you in the next week or two.

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