

Spiritual Discipline: Hospitality

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV84)

²*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.*

- 1 Based on this mornings' sermon, define biblical hospitality.
- 2 Since hospitality was such an important part of the practice of the early church, an early Christian writing called the *Didache* provided some 'rules' to go by:
 - "Let every apostle who comes to you be received as the Lord, but he must not stay more than one day, or two if it is absolutely necessary; if he stays three days, he is a false prophet. And when an apostle leaves you, let him take nothing but a loaf, until he reaches further lodging for the night; if he asks for money, he is a false prophet" (11:4-6).
 - "Let everyone who "comes in the Name of the Lord" be received; but when you have tested him you shall know him, for you shall have understanding of true and false. If he who comes is a traveler, help him as much as you can, but he shall not remain with you more than two days, or, if need be, three.
And if he wishes to settle among you and has a craft, let him work for his bread. But if he has no craft provide for him according to your understanding, so that no man shall live among you in idleness because he is a Christian. But if he will not do so, he is making traffic of Christ; beware of such" (12:1-6, translated by Kirsopp Lake, available at <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-lake.html>)
 - Should we develop some 'rules' to go by for our context? If so, what would they include?
- 3 Read 1 Peter 4:9. As you think about practicing hospitality, what might be some sources of grumbling? How could you get past these?
- 4 Compare Hebrews 13:2-3 with Matthew 25:35-36. What are the implications of this comparison?
- 5 In what way can you deepen your practice of hospitality? Specifically, who is it that God is putting on your heart to serve this week?