

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 13th September 2020
Sermon Title: A family devoted to: hospitality
Bible Passage: Acts 2: 41 - 47, Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:8-9, Hebrews 13:1-2

Recapping the Preach

The Acts 2 passage is very familiar to us now but take time to read the passage again, including a few different translations and the additional passages.

- What stood out to from the passage?
- What did not make sense from the passage?

Stu began by pointing out that growing in hospitality (the willingness to invite strangers or those different from us into our homes and be hospitable) will be a challenge and raise questions for us. It will challenge our mindset ('An Englishman's home is his castle), our self-centredness and our busyness. It will also raise questions: when we invite people to join our faith family, what are we inviting them to and as a multi-cultural community do we regularly cross cultural barriers to practice hospitality?

- Do you agree with the challenges Stu mentioned? Why?
- Are there other challenges you would add which hinder us offering hospitality?
- Which of the challenges resonate with you most?
- Do you regularly cross barriers to invite those different from you to be a part of your friendship circle?

Stu pointed out that practicing hospitality is the responsibility of every Christian. He pointed to three verses Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:8-9, Hebrews 13:1-2. Take time to read these again and their surrounding context.

- What context are these verses set in (what is the writer saying before and after)?
- Why do you think the writers encourage the church to practice hospitality?
- What are the blessings you have received by offering hospitality or receiving hospitality from others?

The basis for our practicing hospitality is that God has been hospitable to us. This was something written into Old Testament Law (Leviticus 19:33-34) and seen practices as part of their tradition (Genesis 18, 24:28-32, Judges 13:15). This applies to us even more so, in the way God has shown hospitality to us, inviting us into His family through the death of His Son Jesus. In short: because we have been shown gracious, loving, compassionate hospitality, we should do the same.

- In what ways does offering hospitality to others, reflect God or reveal God's heart to them?
- How does reflecting on God's act of hospitality towards us shape our actions?
- Stu mentioned looking back to the cross and looking forward to Christ's coming as pictures of hospitality. What encouragement, comfort or joy do these pictures bring to you?

Stu concluded with two practical application to work towards being more hospitable. First we can greet and welcome people we dont know at church. Second we can invite others home and share a meal with them.

- What would stop you from living these applications out?
- What changes would you need to make in life in order to live hospitably?
- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>