
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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FEBRUARY 23, 2025
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

I. SERMON RECAP

In his sermon, guest speaker Pastor Nathan McConnell began by sharing his joy in returning to the community after spending a decade in Scotland, where he and his family have been involved in ministry. He expressed gratitude to the congregation for their support and prayers, highlighting God's quiet awakening among the youth in the United Kingdom, particularly those under 25 who are turning to Christianity in unprecedented numbers. He discussed the refurbishment of a historic church building into a modern worship space in Scotland, which they completed thanks to the community's support. Pastor Nathan shared the transformative stories of individuals who have come to faith through their ministries, illustrating the powerful work of God even in a post-Christian Europe.

Pastor Nathan emphasized the importance of discipleship and hospitality in the Christian faith. Drawing inspiration from the historical example of the Herrnhut community in 1721, he underscored the significance of prayer, community transformation, and the call to live as true disciples of Christ. He reminded the congregation that biblical hospitality extends beyond social gestures to a deeper, spiritual kindness and generosity, encouraging believers to open their hearts and homes to those in need. Pastor Nathan recounted personal experiences with refugees, particularly during the Ukraine crisis, illustrating how his church responded to the needs of the vulnerable in practical and compassionate ways.

Concluding with a call to action, Pastor Nathan encouraged his congregation to embody the principles of love, mercy, and justice in their daily lives. He quoted scripture, urging the church to practice sincere love and hospitality, reminding them that hospitality is a means to entertain angels, as mentioned in Hebrews. As the community prepared for a time of renewal at the Lord's table, he expressed gratitude for the congregation's ongoing hospitality and support, inviting the presence of God to transform lives. Pastor Nathan challenged the attendees, especially the younger generation, to embrace their call to live for the glory of God's kingdom, emphasizing that while the journey may not be easy, it is richly rewarding.

Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction and Ministry Update

An introduction to the speaker's ministry in Scotland and recent developments in their church.

Chapter 2: The Concept of Biblical Hospitality

An exploration of the concept of biblical hospitality and its importance in Christian life.

Chapter 3: Practical Applications of Hospitality

Examples of how biblical hospitality can be applied in real-life situations.

Chapter 4: The Spiritual Impact of Hospitality

A discussion on the spiritual benefits and transformative power of practicing hospitality.

II. STUDY GUIDE

Key Points:

- Hospitality in the Bible goes beyond social niceties; it's about showing God's love to others, especially the vulnerable
- True discipleship involves prayer, justice, creativity, learning, and creating welcoming spaces
- God is initiating a quiet awakening in the UK, particularly among young people
- The church is called to respond to global crises and local needs through practical acts of hospitality
- Practicing hospitality can lead to unexpected blessings and possibly "entertaining angels"
- Breaking the yokes of injustice through hospitality leads to spiritual breakthrough and God's presence

Key Scripture

Romans 12:9-13 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Isaiah 58:6-9 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Hebrews 13:2 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

Micah 6:8 (Alluded to) He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Joel 2:28-29 (Alluded to) "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Themes discussed with relevant verses:

1. Hospitality:

- 1 Peter 4:9
- Matthew 25:35

2. Revival and Awakening:

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

3. Discipleship:

- Matthew 28:19-20

4. Prayer:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

5. Missions:

- Acts 1:8

6. Loving God and Neighbor:

- Mark 12:30-31

7. Breaking Yokes and Healing:

- Luke 4:18

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1: Embracing God's Love

Question: How can we cultivate a 'hunger for Jesus' and openness to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives and communities?

Reading: John 3:16-21

Devotional: God's love is at the core of our faith. As we read in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This profound act of love demonstrates God's desire for an intimate relationship with us. Reflect on how God's love has manifested in your life.

How can you share this love with others, especially those who may feel unloved or forgotten? Consider practical ways to show hospitality and kindness to someone today, remembering that in doing so, we reflect God's love to the world.

Day 2: The Power of Faith in Action

Question: In what ways might God be calling you to step out of your comfort zone to show hospitality or serve others?

Reading: James 2:14-26

Devotional: Faith without works is dead, as James reminds us. True faith compels us to act, to serve, and to love others tangibly. Think about the example in the sermon of people responding to the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

How can your faith move you to action in your community? Is there a need you've been aware of but hesitant to address? Ask God for courage and wisdom to put your faith into practice, remembering that even small acts of kindness can have a significant impact.

Day 3: Salvation and Transformation

Question: What 'yokes' in your life or community do you feel God is calling you to help break through acts of compassion?

Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: Salvation is not just about eternal life; it's about transformation here and now. Paul urges us to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind." Reflect on how your relationship with Christ has changed you.

Are there areas of your life that still need to be surrendered to God's transformative power? Consider the concept of "biblical hospitality" mentioned in the sermon. How might God be calling you to renew your mind regarding how you view and treat others, especially those different from you?

Day 4: Hope in Times of Challenge

Question: How can we maintain our 'spiritual fervor' and zeal for serving the Lord, even when we feel tired or discouraged?

Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Devotional: Hope is a powerful force in the Christian life, especially during difficult times. Paul tells us that "suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Think about challenges you're facing.

How can you maintain hope in these situations? Remember the story of the church in Scotland seeing new believers and baptisms even amidst challenges. Ask God to strengthen your hope and to use your trials to deepen your character and faith.

Day 5: Experiencing God's Presence in All Circumstances

Question: How might God be calling us to use our unique gifts and circumstances to participate in His mission of love and reconciliation in the world?

Reading: Isaiah 58:6-9

Devotional: God promises His presence when we align our hearts with His purposes. Isaiah speaks of breaking yokes of injustice and caring for the needy, followed by the assurance that "Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I." Reflect on times you've sensed God's presence strongly.

How were you living out your faith during those times? Consider how you might "loose the chains of injustice" or "share your food with the hungry" in your context. Pray for God's guidance in living a life that invites His constant presence and intervention.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Small Group Guide: Biblical Hospitality and God's Heart for the Vulnerable

Opening Prayer:

Key Takeaways:

1. Biblical hospitality is about "guest love" - showing kindness and generosity to others, especially those who are vulnerable or in need.
2. God cares deeply about how we treat others, particularly strangers and those unlike us.
3. Practicing hospitality can lead to unexpected blessings and even "entertaining angels."
4. True hospitality is an act of obedience that aligns with God's heart and can break spiritual yokes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The speaker mentioned that biblical hospitality is more than just social interaction. How would you define biblical hospitality based on what you heard?
3. Can you share an experience where you practiced hospitality and were unexpectedly blessed by it?
4. The sermon referenced the Ukrainian refugee crisis. How can we as individuals or as a group respond to global crises with biblical hospitality?
5. How does the concept of "entertaining angels" (Hebrews 13:2) challenge or inspire your approach to hospitality?
6. The speaker emphasized that "the way we treat people matters to God." How might this truth impact your daily interactions?

7. What are some practical ways we can show hospitality in our community, even to those who may be different from us?

8. How does the act of hospitality relate to our spiritual growth and relationship with God?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally show hospitality to someone outside your usual social circle.
2. Pray for opportunities to practice biblical hospitality and for the courage to act on them.
3. Research local organizations that serve vulnerable populations in your community. Discuss as a group how you might support their efforts.
4. Reflect on any "yokes" in your life that might be hindering your ability to show hospitality. Bring these before God in prayer.
5. Plan a group activity that involves serving others or showing hospitality in a tangible way.

Closing Prayer:

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Girls Craft Camp is off and running! Please take time to pray for these young women as they take time to grow closer with each other and develop their relationships and identities in Christ.

Consider joining two upcoming ministry opportunities. The Grief Share group is starting a new series and welcomes anyone grieving or suffering in life. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance for this group.

Along those lines, a new SHALOME class is starting up. If you're interested in receiving training on how to support people through grief and loss, this class is for you. Class times will be determined by those who are interested in joining.

There is a praise and worship service coming up on August 17th at 6:00 PM.

Following that, the Lee Singers arrive on August 22nd and will need host families. There will be approximately 54 singers, so please prayerfully consider this opportunity to bless and be blessed.

For any more information on anything or to register, email Info@cbchighlands.com or call the church office.