

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**Sunday April 7, 2019. "Encounters: Master of the House".**

### **A. Intro.**

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk.

Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

### **B. Recap Series.**

We're in our fifth week of the "**Encounter**" series. A look at people who had a significant, life-changing "**Encounter**" with the person of Jesus, and how that "**Encounter**" impacted and changed the direction of their lives. We know the influence that certain people who come into our lives have. They pour wisdom and life truths into us, and our life isn't, cannot be, the same after we have those experiences. And we're using the life of Jesus, and the people who "**Encountered**" him, to draw out those powerful truths, and examining how we can apply them to our everyday life also.

### **C. Sunday.**

The message Sunday began with a drama that wasn't a reenactment of the scripture, but it was a great parallel to the truths we find in the scripture used Sunday. First, kudos to Kathy and Barry for a great job. The skit was a couple wrestling with the challenge to open their home to be used by Safe Families, (contact Tammy Fowler if you want information on this wonderful ministry), and it was a great introduction to the theme of trusting God, hospitality, and extending our circle to those we don't regularly come in contact with.

Kal landed on the topic of 'radical hospitality', but first let's talk about the basic premise of reaching out past our regular circle of friends, family, and people we associate with.

Look at the people you spend most of your time with.

**Are they more like you or different?** And we need to push the boundaries back a bit.

**How are they alike or different?** (Economically, beliefs, political persuasion, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, culturally, etc.)

**Who are you finding that you probably don't share relationships with? Why is that?**

Statistics show the longer we've been a Christian, the less friends we have that aren't Christian, or at least don't share our values. So there are probably several people groups we just don't know anyone in them. And the truth is, having a more similar, homogeneous, group of friends is actually a hinderance, because it blinds us to the fact there are all sorts of people out there. And even worse, we begin to form opinions, and beliefs about certain types of people because we don't see them as people people, and we begin to categorize people not in our circles as 'them'.

The primary scripture Sunday was the account of Jesus sending Peter and John ahead into Jerusalem to set up the upper room for the Passover, and eventually where Jesus would have the last supper with his disciples and introduce communion. So, read this passage in **Luke 22:7-13**.

**What spoke to you about this passage?**

Kal pulled out several truths from this story.

**1. Faith before seeing.**

The disciples had to trust what Jesus was telling them was true. And when they obeyed him, things were just like he said...even without seeing it. This is hard to trust like this. But we know this is the heart of real faith. We will often have to step into unfamiliar places without all the details.

**2. Hospitality.**

This is the central truth about this passage, and the foundation of the gospel. People were willing to open their house to others. But the **real root of true hospitality is heart.**

A quote used Sunday morning was.

***“Hospitality is making space for people you don’t have to”.***

**-Henri Nouwen**

**Hospitality does three things.**

1. Sets people at ease.
2. Makes zero demands.
3. Takes care of their needs with no expectations of return.

**3. Radical hospitality.** (THE OTHER).

The step above regular hospitality is ‘radical hospitality’. This is what is practiced, taught by Jesus. **It’s not scriptural hospitality until we are inviting, generous, and warm, with people who are outside our regular circle.** And we stand to gain little or nothing from our relationship with them.

**4. Generosity.**

Finally, there is a core place that this type of hospitality comes from. Once we can acknowledge and practice the belief that all we have is from God, we’re just stewards of it, the easier it will be to share.

**D. Challenge.**

We were challenged with two final questions.

**1. Who is your ‘other’?**

Who are people not in your everyday circle? And what can you do to move your life outside your circle, and build genuine relationships with people not like you?

**2. What do you have you can share?**

What have you been blessed with, possess, you can give or share to help someone?

Radical hospitality is what Jesus practiced and called us to. It’s what sets us apart from everyone else. **How will you practice this type of hospitality in your everyday life?**