

Pastor Clifford
April 11th, 2021

The Book of Hebrews: Chapter 13b

(Blue text is Hebrews)

Hebrews 13

“Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

- **Hospitality** can be defined as “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.” In the New Testament, the Greek word translated “hospitality” literally means “love of strangers.” Hospitality is a virtue that is both commanded and commended throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, it was specifically commanded by God: “When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. *Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt*” (**Leviticus 19:33-34**).
- Did you know that during His public ministry, Jesus and His disciples much of the time depended on the hospitality of others as they ministered from town to town?

Matthew 10:9 “Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food.”

- Travelers in ancient times depended heavily on the hospitality of strangers as traveling could be dangerous and there were very few

inns, and poor Christians could not afford to stay at them. This generous provision to strangers also included opening one's home for church services. Hospitality was indeed a highly regarded virtue in ancient times, especially for Christian leaders.

Titus 1:7-8 "For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, **8** but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined."

What is the application for us today?

Lets reflect one more time on the practice of the 1st century church.

Acts 2:42-47 "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Proverbs 14:31 "Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him."

Galatians 6:10 "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Hebrews 13:2 "...For thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

- *Angels* simply put means messenger.
- Angels are an entirely different order of being than humans. Human beings do not become angels after they die. Angels will never become, and never were, human beings. God created the angels, just as He created humanity. The Bible nowhere states that angels are created in the image and likeness of God, as humans are. Angels are spiritual beings that can, to a certain degree, take on physical form. Humans are primarily physical beings, but with a spiritual aspect. The greatest thing we can learn from the holy angels is their instant, unquestioning obedience to God's commands.
- Angels are personal created spiritual beings who have intelligence, emotions, and will. This is true of both the good and evil angels (demons). Angels possess the following:
 - A) **Intelligence:** **Corinthians 11:3** "but I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ."
 - B) **Emotions:** **1 Peter 1:12** "It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look."
 - C) **The ability to exercise will:** **Jude 1:6** "And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—"

What is the function of an angel?

- **They praise their creator**

Psalm 148:1-2 "Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his hosts!"

- **Angels are sent by God to help believers**

Hebrews 1:13-14 "And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"

- **They serve God**

Revelation 22:8-9 "I John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, **9** but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

- **They are used to answer prayers**

Acts 12:5-11 "So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.**6** Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. **7** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. **8** And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." **9** And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a

vision. **10** When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. **11** When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

- **They aid in the spread of the Gospel**

Acts 8:26-27 "Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. **27** And he rose and went."

- **They observe Christian order, work, and suffering**

1 Corinthians 4:9 "For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men."

- **They encourage in times of danger**

Acts 27:23-26 "For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, **24** and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' **25** So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. **26** But we must run aground on some island."

- **They care for the righteous at the time of death**

Luke 16:22 "The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side."

In summary:

Hospitality is a big part of Gods plan for the church to function at its best. Angels are an intricate part of God's order; and who knows, we just might have entertained one or two in advancing His kingdom.