



Hospitality Evangelism: *Lesson 2*

Introduction

- Last week, in our Hospitality Evangelism text, we studied 1 Corinthians 15:24-25. We discussed prophecy; we agreed with Calvin and Perkins that prophecy is spirit-empowered interpretation and proclamation; and we learned that when the church does this together, and non-believers attend, the church has a particularly potent witness. The unbelievers present aren't just convicted and held to account by one preacher; they are convicted and held to account by all, so that they might be converted and know that God is really among us.
- Last week, we discussed the Why and the Who of Evangelism. We played the worst game of Family Feud EVER, trying to figure out the top seven reasons we evangelize. And we talked about who does what in evangelism. We talked about God's sovereignty, the unbeliever's inability, and our responsibility.

Hospitality Evangelism Texts

✦ **Luke 5:27-32**

1. In verses 27-28, we learn that Levi (Matthew) left everything to follow Jesus. What is included in "everything"? What specifically might he have left?
2. What did you leave behind to follow Jesus?
3. For what purpose did Matthew make a great feast?
4. What sort of people did Matthew invite? Why did he choose such people?
5. How did the Pharisees and Scribes feel about Matthew's feast? What was their issue?
6. In what sense will we be tempted to feel like the Pharisees and Scribes?

✦ **1 Kings 10:1-9**

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7. In this text, Solomon shows rather lavish hospitality to the Queen of Sheba. According to verse 1, why does the Queen of Sheba visit Solomon initially? To hear, repent, and believe?
8. Is it possible that some of the unbelievers who receive our hospitality will come to us with the same motives that the Queen of Sheba had?
9. How ought we respond to them in such instances?
 - 2 Timothy 2:22-end of chapter
10. Notice that Solomon was able to answer ALL her questions. How are we like Solomon? How are we not like Solomon?
 - We have the all-sufficient word and Spirit to lead us into all truth (see John 16:13).
 - We do not have exhaustive knowledge of the word, or superlative wisdom (see 1 Kings 3).
11. Does the hospitality shown to Sheba affect her in any way? If so, how?
12. Is it the hospitality, though, that ultimately convinces Sheba? If not, what is it?
 - Solomon's divine wisdom
13. Do we, like Solomon, possess the wisdom of God and the power of God? If so, what is it?
 - The message of Christ crucified (See 1 Corinthians 1:24)

Lesson: Three Commitments We All Need to Make

1. We Must Be Committed to Scripture

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I want each of you to share your personal testimony of coming to repentance and faith with the lost people that sit at your table during our evangelism hospitality nights. I want those testimonies to speak powerfully and winsomely to them. However, we must remember this above all,

God's word is where the power is.¹

✠ *Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

Our testimonies are not the power of God unto salvation for all who believe; God's gospel, as it has been revealed in his word, is! Testimonies are not their own autonomous power; rather, they testify to the power of the word through which the Spirit caused you to be born again.

Dear ones, the material we will be using this summer is built around scripture, specifically, Mark's gospel, not on sharing opinions, not on being cool and relevant, not even on the meal we're offering people.

- What might we be most tempted to rely on instead of the scriptures? (testimonies, reason, historic evidence, personal persuasiveness, etc.)
- In 1 Kings 10, it is undeniable that Solomon's lavish hospitality had an effect on Sheba, yet what was it that ultimately convinced her?

2. We Must be Committed to Prayer.

¹ CE training module 3.

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✦ 1 Thessalonians 5:17

- What does it mean to pray without ceasing?

In his excellent little book of biblical meditation, Thomas Watson writes of this verse,

“The meaning is—not that we should be always praying—but that we should every day set some time apart for prayer. We read in the Old Law it was called the continual sacrifice, Num. 28:24, not that the people of Israel did nothing else but sacrifice, but because they had their stated hours, every morning and evening they offered, therefore it was called the continual sacrifice.”²

Likewise, we should set aside some time every day for prayer concerning our hospitality evangelism initiative.

- When we make prayer this kind of priority, what do we show about our reliance on God rather than ourselves? What does our lack of prayer show?
- Without making it family feud style, what are the things we need to pray for concerning our hospitality evangelism initiative?
 - That God would cause our whole church to engage in this.
 - That we would have ample volunteers and workers around the tables, in the kitchen, and in the children’s portion.
 - That God would make us faithful in inviting many.
 - That God would draw many lost to us.
 - That God would make us faithful and clear in explaining the gospel.
 - That God would grant lost people faith and repentance.

² Excerpt From, *A Christian on the Mount: A Treatise Concerning Meditation*, Thomas Watson. This material may be protected by copyright.

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- That God would cause new converts to follow up their profession with commitment to the body and Baptism.
- That we will faithfully love them as our own.

3. We Must be Committed to People

- When God grants a married couple a child, things change in their home, don't they? What are some of the ways they change? What doesn't change? What new activities ensue? How long does the change last?

✠ *1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*

- In this text, what analogy does Paul use to describe the relationship between himself and the new Christians in Thessalonica?
 - The analogy of a mother.
- If Paul is our example, according to verse 8, how ought we feel about the lost who come and the new converts that are made?
 - We ought to be affectionately desirous of them.
- What changes might we experience when God grants us children, meaning new converts?
- What ought we be ready to share with them?
 - Not just the gospel, not just lecture-driven programs, but our lives.