

Evangelism as Exiles: Hospitality



1 Peter 4:7-9



February 7, 2020

Review the Passage

- **Read** the passage aloud.
- How does the fact that Peter's audience are exile impact the instruction to show hospitality?
- What in the passage reveals the the **tone** or **mood** of the passage?

DISCUSS

We will *rarely* use Greek words in LG discussion. But this is helpful.

What is the word for "hospitality" which Peter uses and how does it help us understand hospitality? _____

(Answer on page 3)

The TDNT describes hospitality as overcoming the **distance of strangeness** and the **tension of being a foreigner**. How does this help us understand what it means to be truly hospitable?

How does the common cultural understanding of hospitality compare with the Biblical use of "hospitality".

Hospitality and Sharing Food

Each group member take a verse. Share how each of these passages show challenges or examples of hospitality.

Genesis 43:32

Obadiah 1:7

Psalms 41:9

Galatians 2:11-14

Luke 15:1

GOSPEL CONNECTION

What is the gospel connection for hospitality? How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus connect to Peter's instruction to show hospitality?

Consider Ephesians 2:17-19

THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE NT (TDNT)

φιλόξενος, *philoxenos*.

"Between the stranger and those around him there is reciprocal tension. He is a man from without, strange, hard to fathom, surprising, unsettling, sinister. But to the stranger (the exile you could say) his odd and the different environment is also disturbing and threatening. [Thus there] arises mutual fear, especially of what is *foreign* (emphasis mine). This is the first and basic **mood** associated with ξένος, no less in early antiquity than in other cultures. On the other hand, the ξένος is the "friend" (→ n. 1) who is **associated** with the [foreigner] in the beautiful reciprocity of **hospitality**. [Hospitality] overcomes the **distance of strangeness** and the **tension of being a foreigner**"

APPLICATION

As a group consider 10 ways we can show hospitality this week.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

How might showing hospitality lead to a conversation about the gospel of Jesus?

PRAYER GUIDE

- Praise God that in Christ we are not longer “strangers and aliens” to God or his people.
- Pray for anyone you might see this week for whom there is a “distanced of strangeness and/or tension of a foreigner”. Who might that be?
- Pray for our church to show hospitality.
- Spend time praising God for all his goodness and glory.

Peter's Greek word for hospitality:

φιλόξενος, philo-xenos

Philo - Love, brotherly love

Xenos - Stranger or foreigner

GUIDE FOR REVIEWING THE PASSAGE

Structure of the Passage

- Beginning and end
- Repeated words or phrases
- Questions and answers
- Conjunctions (for, therefore, so, and, yet, nor, but, etc)
- Progression (greater to smaller, etc).
- Metaphors / similes / word pictures / illustrations
- Quotations from other passages
- Rhetorical questions
- Genre of book or passage (narrative, epistle, song, parable, etc)
- Places, names, historical events, etc

Tone

Is the author angry, gentle, forceful, sorrowful, excited, thoughtful, etc? How would this text be communicated in person? And how does the tone affect the meaning of the passage?

Connecting to the Gospel of Jesus

The good news is that God loves sinners and has sent Jesus to die in our place, that he raised Jesus from the dead, and that eternal life is offered to all who trust in Christ for forgiveness of sin. The gospel, like a diamond, has many facets which make up its beauty. Consider how your passage connects to a particular facet of the gospel. Here are a few to consider:

- We are adopted as **sons** (Ephesians 1)
- In Christ we have an **inheritance** (Ephesians 1)
- we are **citizens** in Christ's **kingdom** (Colossians 1)
- we are **saved** from God's **wrath** (Romans 3).
- We are **justified** grace through Jesus' blood (Romans 3).
- We are **regenerated** by **grace** and **mercy** (Titus 3).
- We have the **indwelling spirit** as a guarantee (Ephesians 1)

The Aim of the Passage

What does the author the passage expect from the audience? To **know** something? To **do** something? And what precisely does he want his audience to know or do?