

Gospel Hospitality

John 13:1-17



Hospitality is the act of receiving guests and entertaining strangers.

John 13:1

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 13:2-4

2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper.

John 13:4-5

He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:6-8

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."

Gospel hospitality is costly, self-giving love that elevates another person and allows them to be welcomed in as God's honored guest.

John 13:9-11

9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

John 13:12-14

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

John 13:15-17

15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Gospel hospitality is a gift to receive.

“If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” (v. 8)

Gospel hospitality is something that must
be exercised.

*“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (v. 14)*

Gospel hospitality cannot be extended to others until Jesus's love for you is first received and internalized.

Jesus grants us an example to follow
and a community in which to
practice and grow in our gospel
hospitality.

““A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Gospel hospitality is unleashed for the
blessing of the world.

“And the Master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’” (Luke 14:23)