

Hospitality and the Great Commission: Reaching the Nations from Your Home Xenos Summer Institute 2014

Rich Mendola
International Friendships, Inc.
2500 N High St, Ste 200
Columbus, OH 43202
rmendola@ifiusa.org

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” (**Hebrews 13:2, NLV**)

1. Hospitality and “Strangers” go together.

Strangers are those who move from one culture to live in another.

Hebrew words for stranger: GER, TOSHAV, ZAR, NOCRI. All refer to people moving from one culture to another.

New Testament word for stranger “Xenos” is equivalent to the Old Testament words in that it refers to one foreign born.

Other English words for “stranger”:

- Alien
- Foreigner
- Sojourner
- International

Strangers in the USA today:

- 45 million immigrants
- 1 million international students and scholars
- 66 million tourists/year
- 13% of US citizens are foreign born

Notes:

2. Hospitality opens the door for people who have not heard about Jesus in the same way that Jesus lived out his mission.

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.” **(Matthew 11:19)**

The majority of international students and a significant number of immigrants come from the least evangelized nations of the world.

The 10/40 window



The majority of people in the world live in nations that are honor based. One of the highest honors that can be shown a person is hospitality. There is a double honor in hospitality.

The book of Acts clearly illustrated that God reaches people with his love while they are away from home. (Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 16)

Notes:

3. The practice of Biblical hospitality is rooted in the character of God.

In Creation (Genesis 2:8-15)

In Redemption (Exodus 3:17)

In Glorification (John 14:2-3)

“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” **(John 14:2-3)**

“He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” **(Deuteronomy 10:18-19)**

Notes:

4. The practice of Biblical hospitality pictures the gospel.

The Great Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

Eating with sinners

Notes:

5. The practice of Biblical hospitality open the possibility of a special work of God in your life.

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” **(Hebrews 13:2, NLV)**

Illustrations:

- Elijah and the widow at Zarephath (1 Kings 17)
- Elisha and the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4)
- Martha, Mary, Lazarus (Luke 10, John 11)

Notes:

6. Both Old and New Testaments reveal a God of Hospitality who instructs His people to be hospitable.

Hospitality is normative to following Jesus.

“Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” **(Romans 12:13)**

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” **(1 Peter 4:8-9)**

“And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.” **(Leviticus 19:33-34, NKJV)**

Hospitality is essential to leadership in the church.

“Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...” **(1 Timothy 3:2)**

“An overseer... must be hospitable...” **(Titus 1:7-8)**

Notes:

7. The practice of Biblical hospitality involves welcoming foreign born people into our hearts and lives, sharing what we have, and offering a safe place for rest and encouragement.

The example of Abraham

“...for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” **(Hebrews 13:2, NLV)**

Genesis 18:1-21

a warm welcome
sharing food and drink together
sharing from the heart together

Notes:

8. Obstacles to the practice of Biblical hospitality:

Too comfortable
Too many relationships
Too busy
Too fearful
Too many excuses

Notes:

9. Conclusion

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” (**Hebrews 13:2, NLV**)

“Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'” (**Isaiah 49:6, NKJV**)

Notes: