

Have you ever been the new person? We all know what it's like to be on the outside of a room where everyone else is on the inside. Maybe you've been the new person at church. Or, the new employee at work. Today, I want you to see what God does with this very common feeling and see how he builds a command on it. He doesn't ask us to imagine what the stranger feels — He wants us to remember.

I. Israel Was Told to Remember

A. Leviticus 19:33-34: Two commands:

(1.) Don't _____ the stranger, 19:33;

(2.) You are to love him as _____, 19:34.

B. See how He ties it all back to Egypt. for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God, 19:34 See also Exodus 23:9; Deuteronomy 10:18-19.

II. The Church Has Inherited This Command

A. Hebrews 13:1: *Let _____ continue. Brotherly love (Philadelphia)*

(1.) Hebrews 13:2: *Don't neglect to show _____, ...describing the love of a stranger.*

B. Notice how he phrases the second command: Don't _____ to show hospitality, ...

(1.) Romans 12:13: *Share with the saints in their needs; _____ hospitality.*

(a.) Chase it. Go after it. Don't wait for it to come to you.

C. The reason for the pursuit: Hebrews 13:2...*for by doing this some have welcomed _____ as guests without knowing it. He's thinking of Abraham in Genesis 18:1-10. You never know who is at the door.*

III. So, How Far Does it Go?

A. Galatians 6:10: *let us work for the good of all, _____ for those who belong to the household of faith.*

(1.) Especially sets a priority. Those in the brotherhood come first;

(2.) But this is inside of the good of all. It needs to be a priority.

B. 2 Corinthians 9:13: *Corinthian generosity in sharing with them and _____.*

IV. Now, the Harder Part

A. Matthew 5:44: *But I tell you, love your _____ and pray for those who persecute you,*

B. Matthew 5:47: *And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? Loving the people who love you back is no achievement.*

V. What This Looks Like Tomorrow

A. Who's the stranger you already know about?

B. Most of what we've talked about today is not dramatic.

(1.) Titus 3:14: *Let our people _____ to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. We have to be taught this. Nobody's born hospitable.*

VI. Look to Jesus.

A. He was the stranger.

(1.) Matthew 8:20: *Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head;*

(2.) John 1:11: *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*

B. On judgment, He will put Himself in the stranger's place.

(1.) Matthew 25:35: *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a _____ and you took me in;*

(2.) The stranger at your door and the Lord at the judgment are closer together than you think.

VII. As We Close...

A. Israel was told to remember. So are we. You were the stranger once. Somebody made room. Go and do the same.

Questions

(1.) Why is memory a stronger foundation for hospitality than sympathy? (2.) Philadelphia and philoxenia are built on the same word for love. What happens to a congregation that practices the first and neglects the second? (3.) Hebrews 13:2 says some welcomed angels without knowing it. What would change about hospitality if we could always tell in advance who was worth it? (4.) What does it mean to you that Jesus associates himself with a stranger in Matthew 25 and then says how we treat the stranger will come up in Judgment? (5.) Who is the stranger you already know about? Name one thing you could do before next Sunday that would make room for that person. What has kept you from doing it already?

Answers

Stranger	Brotherly love
Oppress	Neglect
Hospitality	Pursue
Especially	With everyone
Angels	Enemies
Yourself	Learn