

Small Group Notes 2 July 2017. Theme: “Hospitality”

Key Words: Hospitality, Guest, Host, Reward.

Welcome

- “*Nothing says welcome like the wifi password,*” reads an advert in a Durbanville Hospital. What makes you feel welcome?

Worship

- Open in prayer acknowledging the presence of Christ amongst you?
- Ask “How goes it with your soul?” After a few moments reflection invite members to respond.
- Share with one another how you encountered God’s presence on Sunday in worship. These prompts may stimulate discussion.
 - What challenged you? What encouraged you? What did God say to you?
- Glorify God in prayer/song for all God is doing in your lives.

Word

Read Mt. 10:40-42

1. See how many stories you can remember from the Old Testament where hospitality was vital to the fulfilment of God’s purposes.
2. Do you prefer to be a guest or a host? Why?
3. Replay the day thus far (or yesterday if you meet in the morning) in your mind. How would you have acted differently if you’d consciously thought of yourself as a living representative of Jesus (“Whoever receives you receives me” see note below)
4. Reward is mentioned three times in the passage. What do you think the reward is?
5. What does it say about the character of the God that offering even a cup of water is worthy of reward?

Works

- How can you grow in “hospitality” generally? One possibility is to volunteer for the Hospitality Commission’s “Meal’ Ministry”. Having made a meal deliver it in person to the those who need it. If you are invited in receive the invitation and prayerfully think of yourself as one with the capacity to bring blessing in Jesus name.
- Pray for one another and the needs on the prayer list.

Note on Mt 10:40

Underlying such sayings, with their repeated reference to being “sent”, is the principle later enshrined in the Jewish legal institution of the *šālīaḥ*, the “one sent,” an ambassador or representative who was understood to have the full authority of the one who sent them.¹

Note on Reward

Matthew is not coy about the “reward” that awaits those who are faithful to their calling. He will use ... in 5:46; 6:1, 2, 5, 16; 10:41, 42, and the concept of a heavenly recompense is built into several of his parables (notably 20:1–15; 24:45–47; 25:20–23) as well as more broadly into the teaching of Jesus (6:4, 6, 18; 19:27–29; 25:34–40).²

¹ France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 413). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

² France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (pp. 172–173). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.