

# PHILEMON

## Lesson 22: Hospitality

27 May, 2016

In verse 22, Paul requests that Philemon prepare for him a place to lodge. Throughout the Scriptures, we see that hospitality is commonly practiced among believers. —Biblical hospitality: to provide a meal, a place to stay, washing the feet of a traveller, acts of kindness, meeting needs, etc. We show hospitality toward other believers because of our common bond; we treat one another as brothers and sisters.

**GENESIS 18:1-8** Abram showed hospitality to three travellers. He provided them with water to wash their feet, food and drink, and a place to rest and be refreshed before continuing their travels. It was later that Abram learned he had “entertained angels unawares” (Heb. 13:2).

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**ACTS 16:14-15** Lydia, after being saved and baptized, urged Paul and Silas to abide in her house. Hospitality like this is a way of entering into the fellowship of the saints; taking part in the ministry of the Lord and showing appreciation for the work that others are doing for Jesus Christ.

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**ACTS 16:16-34** The Philippian jailer, after believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (vs. 33), brought Paul and Silas from the prison to his house (hospitality), washed their stripes (hospitality), got baptized, and fed them a meal (hospitality).

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**ACTS 21:16** Mnason was “an old disciple” who offered lodging for the missionaries. Older Christians can be a real blessing to a visitor. Their experiences are good instruction for others.

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**ACTS 28:1-7** Here the “barbarous people” of Melita were very hospitable to Paul and 275 shipwrecked men. Publius, the chief man of the island lodged them all for three days “courteously” (vs. 7).

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**LUKE 8:1-3**

Jesus and His twelve disciples were ministered to by women whom Jesus had delivered from evil spirits and infirmities. They couldn't do what the disciples did, but they did what they COULD do (Mark 14:8).

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**3 JOHN 1:5-7**

We are instructed to be charitable to others—without taking up a collection from the Gentiles. God's people ought to provide for the needs of God's missionaries, preachers, and other needs of the church. Fundraisers for the needs of the ministry are unbiblical if they include the unsaved community. If God's people are giving as they should, a minister should never have to ask for money.

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**1 TIMOTHY 3:1-5**

One of the conditions for spiritual leadership is that the man be "given to hospitality." The qualifications for a Bishop or Deacon do not require that the man be a good speaker or preacher. He doesn't have to be skilled at keeping your attention with his dynamic speaking ability. What is important to God is whether or not his minister is a man who loves others as himself (Mark 12:31) and esteems others as better than himself (Philippians 2:3) and is willing to lay down his life for the needs of others (John 15:13).

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**1 TIMOTHY 5:9-10**

A Christian woman's life ought to demonstrate hospitality. She should be known as one who spent her life making others more comfortable and meeting their needs in various ways. If she has lived such a life, the church ought to repay her at the end of her life.

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