The Table of Mission: Opening Our Lives for the Sake of the Good News

Romans 12:9–13

Big Idea: Hospitality makes the love of Messiah visible and creates relational bridges through which the good news can travel.

1. Hospitality Is Something We Pursue (Romans 12:9–13)

A. Philoxenia means "love of strangers"; Paul commands us to pursue it (v. 13).
B. The expression behind "practicing" carries the idea of **pursuing** hospitality. We do not merely wait for opportunities.
- We look for them.
- We create them.
- We pursue them.

C. Sincere love expresses itself in practical care (vv. 9–13).
D. Take initiative to welcome people beyond familiar circles (cf. Deut. 10:18–19).

2. Hospitality Makes Love Visible (1 Peter 4:8–9)

A. Fervent love finds expression in practical hospitality (vv. 8–9).
B. Welcome others without complaint, even when hospitality is costly (v. 9).
C. Value genuine care for guests above impressive entertaining.

3. Hospitality Creates Opportunities for Proclamation (Romans 10:14–17)

A. People must hear the message concerning Messiah in order to believe (vv. 14, 17).
B. Hospitality creates relational opportunities; it never replaces verbal proclamation.
C. Make space for the good news to be heard, questioned, observed, and believed.
D. Hospitality brings together things that should never have been separated:
- Truth + Relationship
- Proclamation + Listening
- Conviction + Affection
- Scripture + Everyday Life

Ask yourself: Whose name is missing from my table?

4. Hospitality Creates Space for Questions (Acts 17:1–4, 10–12; 1 Peter 3:15)

A. Paul reasoned from the Scriptures about Messiah's suffering and resurrection (Acts 17:2–3).
B. The Bereans examined the Scriptures to evaluate his claims (Acts 17:11).
C. Respond to honest questions with preparation, gentleness, and respect (1 Pet. 3:15).

5. Hospitality Allows the Good News to Be Observed (Acts 2:42–47)

A. The early Jewish believers joined teaching, fellowship, meals, and prayer (v. 42).
B. Generosity and shared meals made their faith visible (vv. 44–46).
C. Our congregations should display humility, care, and love for Jewish people.

6. Hospitality Can Provoke Israel to Jealousy (Romans 11:11–14)

A. God intends Gentile salvation to stir Israel to desire His blessings (v. 11).
- Not arrogance toward Israel.
- Not contempt for Jewish identity.
- Not antisemitism.
- Not the notion that the nations have displaced Israel.

B. Paul longed for the salvation of his fellow Jewish people (vv. 13–14).
C. Hospitality can make Gentile believers' gratitude, humility, and love visible; this is an application of the passage, not its explicit command.

7. Hospitality Serves the Goal of Faith (Romans 10:9–17; 1 Corinthians 3:5–7)

A. The desired response is personal faith in the risen Yeshua (Rom. 10:9–10).

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B. Faith requires hearing the good news about Messiah (Rom. 10:14–17).
C. We plant and water faithfully, but God gives the growth (1 Cor. 3:5–7).

Hospitality does not replace proclamation of the good news; it creates a relational setting in which that proclamation can be heard, questioned, observed, and believed.

Takeaway: Open the door. Open your life. Open the Scriptures. Speak of Messiah. Trust God with the results.

Book Recommendations:

- Alexander Strauch, *The Hospitality Commands*
- Cliff McManis, *What the Bible Says About Hospitality*

FOR REFLECTION:

1. What does it mean practically to "pursue hospitality" (Romans 12:13), rather than simply being hospitable when opportunities arise?

2. How might genuine hospitality help Jewish people observe something in our lives that awakens a desire to know Israel's Messiah (Romans 11:11–14)?

3. How can we ensure that hospitality creates opportunities for meaningful proclamation rather than becoming a substitute for sharing the good news?

4. What specific changes could we make in our homes, schedules, congregations, or ministries to create more opportunities for Jewish friends to hear, question, observe, and believe the good news?

Hospitality creates the setting; proclamation communicates the good news.