

The Inconvenience of Hospitality

Luke 11:5-8; Phil 2:5-8

Wong Tak Meng | St John's-St Margaret's Church

16-17 March 2024

Luke 11:5-8 (ESV)

- Luke 11:5 And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

Hospitality: Transformed Motivation

- **Should not be a gimmick or a calculated tactic** to please others in order to gain their approval and loyalty **(manipulation)**.
- **Nor merely as a job or task to perform** for pay or reward **(transaction)**.
- **Rather, it should be an authentic way of relating to others motivated by the love of Christ (transformed by Christ)**.

Hospitality can often be inconvenient

Paraphrase of Luke 11:5-8

- **You have 2 friends, Paul and Peter.**
- **Paul arrives at your house unexpectedly, while on a journey.**
- **You are unprepared for Paul's arrival.**
- **How do you feel?**
- **You go to Peter's house. It is already midnight.**
- **Peter has already put his children to bed and locked his door.**
- **How would Peter feel?**
- **How would you feel calling upon Peter?**

Hospitality starts with God (1)

- **The context of this parable (Luke 11:1-31):** God's hospitality gives us boldness to seek Him in prayer.
- Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray..."
- Luke 11:2-4 – He welcomes us to tell Him our needs:
 - Daily bread
 - Forgiveness of our sins
 - Protection from trying circumstances

Hospitality starts with God (2)

- God's hospitality is premised upon **His relationship with us as "Father"**:
 - Luke 11:2a "When you pray, say: **"Father..."**"
 - Luke 11:11 **What father among you**, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father** give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

God inconvenienced Himself (1)

- **Creation:** Already provided us everything we need in creation.
- **Fall:** God continued providing for us despite our betrayal, wickedness and rejection of Him.
- **Redemption: The “scarlet thread of redemption” from Adam to Jesus:**
 - Made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (Gen 3:21)
 - “Father forgive them.” (Luke 23:34)
 - “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

God inconvenienced Himself (2)

- Christ demonstrate to us His hospitality (Phil 2:5-8)
 - The King of glory emptied Himself of the glory of heaven
 - The Master came to serve
 - The Creator born in the likeness of man his creature
 - Majesty humbled, broken and defaced by dying on a cross

Why did God inconvenience Himself (1)?

- **He wants to reconcile us as His people and His friends**
 - “I will say to *Not My People*, ‘You are **my people**.’” (Hos 2:23)
 - “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his **friends (Greek: philos)**. You are **my friends** if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:13-15)

Why did God inconvenience Himself (2)?

- He wants to show His Radical Hospitality to others as our friends on His behalf:
 - Luke 11:5-8 “Friend” is mentioned 4 times.
 - Luke 11:5-6 ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived...’
- How much we are willing to be inconvenienced for others is how much we are grateful for God’s Radical Hospitality to us.

Application: Let's be transformed by Christ for Radical Hospitality!

- See people around us as people with whom God wants to deepen his redemptive friendship through us. If God sees them as His friends, we should see them as our friends.
- See the needs of people around us, as we would the needs of our friends.
- Show them hospitality as friends on God's behalf, regardless of the inconvenience.