

Jesus Offers Hospitality

Matthew 14: 13-21, 21: 12-15, Mark 5: 1-20, 10:13-16, Luke 8: 26-39,
John 3:1,2, 4:4-7, John 21:9,10

There are two substantive things different about our study of hospitality this week. First, these are stories about Jesus, the Originator of hospitality for the universe; its galaxies, star systems, and created beings. Secondly, we are not focusing on a single story but using but using 7 very different ones to see how they represent qualities or processes of hospitality. (I seem to be obsessed with that number. There is one story I added because I wanted there to be seven stories.) I think this method might let you pick stories you particularly like to contemplate for each of the foci for this week.

Components of Hospitality

1. Hospitality welcomes the outsider, the stranger, or the vulnerable traveler.
2. In every story here there is a possibility of some sort of danger or disaster
3. Beings who are hospitable make a choice to take personal risks.
4. A primary core value of a hospitable person, locale, or choice is that they are safe for the guest but also for others of the environs.
5. Nurture is involved.
6. Guests can be any sort of being.
7. There are often unexpected results or blessings.

Stories for this Discussion

1. **A Pharisee Visits at Midnight**
2. **High Noon Hospitality at a Well.**
3. **Children Come for Hugs and Blessings**
4. **Feeding a Lot of People**
5. **Meeting at Gerasene.**
6. **Jesus Welcomes the Blind and Lame**
7. **Breakfast for Exhausted Fishermen** (*I really really wanted to say "Fisherfolk but I am pretty sure this one was all men."*)

Preparation

1. What kinds of locations did Jesus use for His acts of hospitality?
2. How were these locations safe or how did Jesus make them safe?
3. What are the lessons for you?

Who

1. Were the wanderers?
2. The strangers?
3. The vulnerable ones?
4. Were the various kinds of beings involved in these stories?

Needs

1. What were the needs?
2. How were they demonstrated?

Sharing

1. What humans are included in these acts of hospitality?
2. What are their parts?
3. Do any of them surprise you?
4. What one did you almost miss?
5. What do you think are the stages of spiritual development of the people participating in Jesus' hospitality?
6. What do you think are the intended lessons for the readers?
7. What do you think are the lessons for you? - *Yea! There were seven! ☺*

Nurturing

1. What are the ways Jesus nurtured?
2. Did any of them surprise you?
3. Did any of them expand your notion of what nourishes?

Danger

- 1. What different kinds of danger are possible in these various acts of hospitality?**
- 2. How are they addressed?**

What were the unexpected results or blessings?

- 1. Any of them surprise you?**
- 2. Are there lessons in them for you?**

I look forward to our discussion. I always learn from you. In the meanwhile, I wish for you healing and unexpected blessings.

Catherine