

June 14, 2026

Hospitality Blessings

Genesis 18:1–15 & Matthew 10:1–10

*“I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah, your wife, will have a son.”
(Genesis 18:10)*

“Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey...Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave.” (Matt. 10:9-11).

Hospitality is the sacred power of welcome and one of the oldest spiritual practices found in Scripture. Long before churches had buildings, before Israel built a temple, and before the disciples developed a mission strategy, God’s people practiced hospitality. They set a table, opened a tent flap, and showed a willingness to welcome the stranger. Today’s passages reveal something astonishing: When we welcome others, God is present with us. When we offer blessings, God multiplies them. **Hospitality is not merely good manners; it is a gateway through which God’s promises enter the world.**

Genesis 18:1-15 teaches us an important lesson about hospitality that leads to a promise. One hot day, Abraham is sitting at the entrance of his tent when he spots three strangers approaching. He does not know who they are or what they want, yet he runs to meet them—an act of humility for a man of his age and status. He bows low and offers them water, rest, bread, shade, and a feast. Abraham’s hospitality is not cautious or minimal; it is joyful and lavish.

Then comes the surprise: the strangers are God’s messengers. In welcoming them, Abraham has welcomed the Lord Himself. Through this act of hospitality, God speaks a promise: “I will surely return to you... and Sarah, your wife, shall have a son.” The blessing Abraham receives is significant, and not just symbolic; it signifies the fulfillment of a promise made decades ago. Hospitality becomes the gateway to God’s miracle. Abraham did not realize he was entertaining angels; he simply welcomed strangers, and God met him there.

In Matthew 10:1-10, Jesus illustrates the importance of hospitality in spreading God’s kingdom. He commissions the disciples, giving them authority to heal, restore, and proclaim the kingdom of God. However, he gives them an important instruction: “Take no gold, no silver, no bag, no extra tunic.” **This is significant because their mission depends on the hospitality of others.**

The disciples are to enter homes, receive a warm welcome, share peace, and bless those who accept them. The kingdom of God will spread not through force, wealth, or power, but through relationships built on welcome. Jesus is teaching them that the gospel travels on the foundation of hospitality. Where they are welcomed, blessings will flow; where they are rejected, they will move on, yet the mission will continue. **Just as Abraham received a blessing through hospitality, the disciples also bless others through their ability to foster connections.**

When we consider two key stories, a clear pattern emerges. Hospitality is a beautiful gateway to experiencing God’s presence! Just as Abraham welcomed strangers and encountered the divine, we too can find God at our doors. When the disciples entered homes, they spread healing, peace, and hope, demonstrating the powerful impact of our warmth and kindness. Hospitality truly serves as the bridge between heaven and earth, where God’s promises come alive, peace flows

freely, and His kingdom begins to flourish. It's not about perfect homes or flawless meals; it's about embracing open hearts and lives, ready to share love and blessings with everyone we meet!

Hospitality is not merely something we offer; it is a channel through which God blesses us.

Hospitality blesses the giver. Just as Abraham's warm welcome led to the miraculous birth of Isaac, your kindness can create transformative moments.

Hospitality blesses the receiver. Homes that welcomed the disciples experienced peace and healing.

Hospitality blesses the world. Every act of welcome helps dispel darkness and fear, creates space for God's light, and maintains peace and good relationships.

While hospitality may not always be elaborate or easy, it is profoundly sacred. When we open our doors, tables, and hearts, we invite heaven's blessings into our lives.

Today, while hospitality may not involve tents or dusty roads, its essence remains unchanged.

Hospitality is about:

- Making room for someone who feels alone
- Listening without rushing
- Welcoming newcomers
- Sharing a meal with someone in need of community
- Opening our homes, our schedules, and our hearts
- Offering peace in a chaotic world.

Here's the promise of Scripture: when we welcome others, God is at work—often in ways we cannot see. Like Abraham, we might discover that God's blessings come in the form of strangers. Similarly, like the disciples, we may realize that our simple acts of welcoming others carry the power of the kingdom.

May we become a people whose welcome is wide, whose tables are long, whose hearts are open, and whose hospitality becomes a blessing that resonates through eternity. Amen.