Live, Give, Grow, Go (60)

Biblical Hospitality: Giving Great Gifts to Your Guests

**The Big Welcome**

**Luke 15:1-2**

Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. **2**Both the Pharisees and the scribes *began* to grumble, saying, **“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”**

*“Welcoming is simply the act of showing unconditional acceptance to people without expectations…It is hard to overstate the impact that a genuinely warm welcome can have in a person’s life. Welcoming someone bridges them from being a vulnerable outsider to being connected in relationship. When you accept and include someone, you lay the initial groundwork for a relationship to thrive and grow…reflecting Christ’s love and acceptance…By not welcoming someone, you shut down a person’s interest or willingness to engage relationally.”*

-- Mary Schaller & John Crilly

**Your Face**

* **Intentional Eye Contact (Attention)**

**Proverbs 21:4** Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin…

* **Your Smile**

*“A kind look, a good-natured smile can work wonders and accomplish miracles.”* –William Hazlitt

**Your Greeting**

* ***“Big Boy…!”***(Become an enthusiastic greeting between Aslan, Kai, and I)
* **Norm on *Cheers***

*Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got.   
Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot.   
  
Wouldn't you like to get away?   
  
Sometimes you want to go   
Where everybody knows your name,   
and they're always glad you came.   
You wanna be where you can see,   
our troubles are all the same   
You wanna be where everybody knows   
Your name.*

**Your Words**

**Proverbs 15:4** A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

**Ephesians 4:29** Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

**Proverbs 26:18-19** Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death **9**is one who deceives their neighbor and says, “I was only joking!”

**Emotional Warmth of Your Space**

* Not talking about the cleanliness or fashion of your physical home…Far More Important
* Your *Aura*

*“Distinctive atmosphere or quality that seems to surround and be generated by a person…”*

* Openness
* Safe & Caring
* Non-Judgmental
* Authentic & Real

**Accepting People As They Are**

* **This was one of Jesus’ Most Profound and Hospitable Abilities**
  + The Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-30)
  + Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10)
  + The Town Prostitute (Luke 7:36-50)

*In our world full of strangers, estranged from their own past, culture, and country, from their neighbors, friends, and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a painful search for a hospitable place where life can be lived without fear and where community can be found…Hospitality therefore means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy.*

-- Henri Nouwen – Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life