

Title: Hospitality
Series: 2026 Fall Vision Series
Speaker: Kevin Sneed
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Key Texts: Luke 5:27-32



Introduction

We practice hospitality in contrast to a world full of hostility, division, and isolation. As apprentices to Jesus, hospitality is how we extend the love and welcome we have received from God toward the other. We hold space for the Spirit to cultivate within us a posture of Christlike love toward others, and we put that into practice through the habits of table welcome and bearing witness. Table welcome is the rhythm of sharing in God's love and generosity by eating and drinking with those who are near and far from God. Bearing witness is proclaiming the reality of the kingdom of God by reflecting the truth and love of Christ in both word and deed. As we practice hospitality in these ways, we partner with God in creating a space where strangers are welcomed as friends and friends are turned into family.

Icebreaker: Describe a time when you experienced wonderful hospitality. What made that experience so meaningful, and what did you most appreciate about the welcome you received?

Discussion Questions

1. Thinking back to the sermon from this Sunday, what stuck with you? Was there anything particularly encouraging or challenging for you?
2. Read **Luke 5:27-32**. What details stand out to you from this passage? What do you think this passage teaches us about God, and what does it teach us about people?
3. Read **Luke 5:27-28**. Put yourself in Levi's shoes - you are a tax collector, working for the Roman government, and likely considered to be a traitor and collaborator by your own people. You've just left everything to follow Jesus, and your first move is to throw a party and introduce him to your friends. Why do you think Levi would respond in this way? What can we learn about hospitality from him when his first instinct was to gather people around a table, rather than to leave his old life behind quietly?

4. Read **Luke 5:29-30**. Next, imagine yourself as one of the “tax collectors and sinners” at the table. How do you imagine it may have felt to be welcomed into that meal? What do you think it would mean to you to have someone like Jesus choose to eat with you, even knowing your reputation?
5. Read **Luke 5:30**. Finally, imagine yourself to be a Pharisee watching from the outside. What do you think would be driving your objection — status, fear, control, something else? Where might you see that same instinct in yourself today?
6. Read **Luke 5:31-32**. Jesus reframes the whole scene — he is doing exactly what he came to do. How does his response challenge the way you tend to decide who is “worth” your time and space at your table? What could it look like for you this week to intentionally move closer to someone who may feel far from God this week, or who may just be difficult to love? Is there someone in particular God is inviting you to extend his love and welcome to this week - whether they are near or far from God?

Practice: Hospitality Audit

The goal of this audit is to hold space for the Holy Spirit to graciously probe the deepest dimensions of our hearts and reveal the areas where we need to foster greater hospitality toward others—even and especially those who are difficult for us to love. As you take an honest assessment of where you currently are, remember His grace toward you, and His power that is made perfect in weakness.

As you begin, thank God for the welcome he has extended to you. Take some time to remember specific ways, even from this past week, that God has demonstrated welcome, generosity, and care for you. Consider how God has blessed you, and ask him to reveal to you ways that you might offer those blessings back to God through extending hospitality to others. For example, how might you offer your living space or your time to others? Who are the people God has placed around you? What strengths or skills has God gifted you with that you can bless others with?

What area of your life feels difficult for you to offer or release (time, attention, budget, cleanliness, something else)? What fears or hesitations do you have when it comes to welcoming others around your table or sharing your faith with others? Honestly share those with him now. Is there someone you may be avoiding or are finding difficult to love? Invite God to bring particular faces and names to mind.

Ask Him to reveal to you who he might be inviting you to move closer to this week - perhaps a neighbor, coworker, friend, or family member. How can you practice hospitality as you approach them with genuine curiosity and care? How might He be prompting you – perhaps to share a meal, space, or even your own testimony with them?