

You Must Be a Witness For Jesus.

You Just Don't Know Who Might

Become Your Blessing!

(NKJV) Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 **Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.**

I. 11 - Faith; 12-Hope; 13-Love

II. Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue

- A. The mark of a true Christian! Can not be achieved unless;
- B. **(NKJV) Lk 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me**
- C. The Christian is to deny himself daily. He is to exalt the things of Christ more than the things he desires daily.
- D. Notice this again he was talking to his **disciples**. (vs 24)
 - 1. These are the ones that had already accepted him.
 - a. This means that after we have accepted Christ, if we want to experience the very best God has to offer, we also must then learn to deny ourselves to be able to truly follow him.
 - 2. We must, we must, let brotherly continue!
 - a. Even in our words to one another!
 - b. No man can serve two masters! We cannot look out for ourselves and look out for God's best at the same time.
 - 3. Too often people join churches and say they have accepted Christ but they have not denied themselves.
 - 4. As a result, they are still very much alive to themselves. They get their feelings hurt, pride swells up, and self tramples over the feelings of others.

Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

 - a. Especially leaders! Those whom God has called.

Mt 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

Ga 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness,

considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

5. How many people do you know that have left churches because people have verbally mistreated them??
6. Many need to consider the fact that Christ has put them in that place for a mission. That mission may have been to be a blessing to the one who failed to show brotherly love!

III. **2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels**

A. The importance of inviting and welcoming strangers to be your guest

B. Abraham and the three strangers to be his guests

(NKJV) Ge 18:1 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3 and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. 4 Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said."

1. Learns of a child that is to be his. Had not invited strangers to be his guests the child might have still been delayed
(NKJV) Ge 18:10 And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)
2. (NKJV) Ge 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac.

C. Lot invited strangers to be his guests

(NKJV) Ge 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." 3 But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered

his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

1. He did not know they were angels.
2. What did he gain by inviting these men?
 - a. The city was set apart for destruction but because of his invitation to strangers, his whole household was saved

D. Laban invited a stranger named Jacob to be his guest

1. **(NKJV) Ge 29:13 Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things. 14 And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.**
2. **(NKJV) Ge 30:25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country. 26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you." 27 And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."**
 - a. Laban would have been tremendously blessed had he not tried to mistreat Jacob.

E. Joseph was a stranger in a foreign land but became a blessing to

1. **Potiphar had the stranger named Joseph in his house**
Ge 39:1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. 2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. 5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.
2. **Jailer had the stranger named Joseph in his dungeon**
Ge 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. 23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

3. The butler and the baker listen to the words of the stranger named Joseph

Ge 40:5 Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation. **6** And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad. **7** So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" **8** And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

4. Pharaoh invited the stranger named Joseph to the palace

- a. he learned of seven plentiful years and seven years of famine
- b. The nation of Egypt was blessed with an abundance of food for seven years in a terrible famine

F. Rahab the prostitute invited two strangers to stay in her house

Jos 2:1 Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

1. She hid the two men from the king and as a result
Jos 6:21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. **22** But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." **23** And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel. **24** But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. **25** And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

G. Saul invited David in

1 Sa 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

1 Sa 16:23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

H. The widow invited a stranger name Elijah in

1 Ki 17:10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." **11** And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." **12** So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." **13** And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. **14** For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' " **15** So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. **16** The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah. **17** Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. **18** So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?" **19** And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. **20** Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" **21** And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." **22** Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

I. The Shunammite Woman Invited stranger's name Elisha to be a guest in her house

2 Ki 4:8 Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. **9** And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. **10** Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there." **11** And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. **12** Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. **13** And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' " She answered, "I dwell among my own people." **14** So he said, "What then

is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old." 15 So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. 16 Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!" 17 But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her. 18 And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. 19 And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. 21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out. 22 Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back." 23 So he said, "Why you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well." 24 Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." 25 And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman! 26 Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' " And she answered, "It is well." 27 Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me." 28 So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?" 29 Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child." 30 And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. 31 Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened." 32 When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. 33 He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. 34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. 35 He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." 37 So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

J. The Innkeeper invited strangers named Mary and Joseph in
Lk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

K. Mary and Martha invited a man name
(NKJV) Lk 10:38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

IV. Results

- A. Abraham learned of the child to be born from strangers he invited to be his guest
 - B. Lot's whole household was saved back to strangers he invited to be his guest
 - C. Laban became rich but lost it all trying to cheat the one he invited to be his guest
 - D. Potiphar had everything in his house and field blessed because of the stranger in his house
 - E. the jailer did not have to look after anything that was under Joseph's authority
 - F. the Butler was restored because of a stranger name Joseph
 - G. a nation was saved because of a stranger named Joseph who was invited to come to the palace
 - H. Rahab and her household were saved because she invited strangers to come to her house
 - I. Saul had peace because he invited David to come to his house
 - J. a dying widow woman survived a famine because she's invited Elijah to be her guest
 - K. A Shunnamite woman had a child and he was protected because she invited a man of God to be a guest in her house
 - L. an innkeeper certainly received an eternal blessing for providing room for two strangers named Mary and Joseph
 - M. Mary and Martha invited a man named Jesus be a guest in their house and saw their brother live again
- V. From these lessons, we learn the importance of inviting strangers to be our guest. The modern application of this is that we need to learn to invite strangers to be guest in our church family.
- A. God has commanded us:
 - B. **(NKJV) Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.**
 - C. Some of the people we invite to the church may one day become the people become a personal blessing to us.
 - D. Some may become
 - 1. best friends
 - 2. a spouse
 - 3. a healer
 - 4. an employee
 - 5. an employer

6. a reference for a promotion
 7. a business partner
 8. an investor in your business
 9. a builder
 10. a real estate agent
 11. a doctor
 12. an attorney
 13. a son-in-law or daughter-in-law
- E. The possibilities are unimaginable!

VI. With all of these possibilities let us obey what Christ told us to do. Become witnesses for him

THIS WEEK: BECOME A WITNESS FOR JESUS AN INVITE A GUEST TO YOUR CHURCH HOME