

DISCUSSION:

Discuss the question cluster below

(As much or as little as works for your group and in any order you like)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're starting a new sermon series called, "Hospitality: A life of Welcome." In it we're looking what real Christian hospitality is supposed to be all about. It turns out, it's not quite what we think. We're going to look at four topics to help us discover what biblical hospitality is really about and to see how we lean into it. Those topics are: 1) Defining Hospitality; 2) The Need for it; 3) The Power of it; 4) The Extent of it.

I. This week, we looked at Matthew 25:31-46 and the *need* of hospitality. We learned that, from Jesus' point of view, our hospitality is not just about posture towards each other. It's about our posture towards him. He so identifies with the needs of others that he can say how you treat them is how you treat him. Our hospitality and welcome of others is ultimately about our heart towards God. That's part of why it is so important and necessary. Let's discuss what this means for our lives.

- A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
- B. What was new, interesting or challenging about Jesus' concept that how you treat others reflects how you treat him?
 1. *Does anyone come to mind when you think about that? Anyone you think maybe you would or should treat differently knowing this?*
- C. What are some regular, small interactions you could approach differently knowing that how you relate to others in those small moments has much more significance to it than meets the eye because how you treat them connects to how you treat Jesus (i.e., interactions when we're shopping, commuting, working, studying etc.)?
 1. *Who is a person (or type of person) you could slow down to spend just a minute or two more with? Who could you show more kindness, patience, generosity to in little ways?*
- D. How does it change the way you think about your life to know that Jesus died to take away the ugliest, unwelcoming side of you (the side that does let others go hungry, thirsty, etc.) just by grace?