

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. Heb. 13:1-2 - Two things that help our understanding:
 - 1. The word angel is the Greek word *aggelos*, “from *aggello* (to bring tidings); a messenger; especially an angel; by implication, a preacher, messenger” (Strongs - 32).
 - a. It is the same word translated as “messenger” throughout scripture - Luke 7:24
 - b. It often speaks of people sent with a message and not necessarily angelic beings.
 - 2. The word translated “entertain strangers” is the Greek word *philoxenox*, meaning to be friendly to those not known to you. It's taken from the root words *philos* meaning friend, and *xenos* which here means someone with whom you are not acquainted. (Strongs - 5381)
 - a. This is the only place where it is translated “entertain strangers”; it is normally translated as hospitality.
 - 3. This verse is saying always be hospitable or friendly toward those you do not know, because some have hosted messengers of God without knowing it.
- B. Throughout the Old Testament “the angel of God” or angels came to certain men to deliver a message from God, for directions or corrections, or to rescue them from harm.
 - 1. But even in Old Testament times, the word angel and their messenger characteristics began to be applied to ordinary men who fulfilled the same purposes.
 - a. 2Sam. 14:17; 1Sam 29:9
 - 2. Sometimes the angels were seen - 1Chron. 21:20
 - 3. Sometimes the angels were unseen - Num. 22:22-27
- C. When the angel of God appeared, one would know it; it was not entertaining unaware.
 - 1. Judges 13:6; Gen. 18:1-3; Matt. 28:2-4; Luke 1:11-12
 - 2. Even if fear was not part of the experience, men recognized them as Divinely sent angelic beings. They announced themselves, and it was evident that they were different - Acts 27:23, 8:26, 12:7
- D. While it is possible that entertaining angels without knowing it may have occurred, the scriptures are silent about it, and it does not fit well with the harmony of the word.
 - 1. It was a time when those who traveled with the Gospel would not have survived without those faithful who took them in, giving them shelter, provisions, and friendship.
 - 2. While that does not reflect our own times, the principle of hospitality is still a binding Bible imperative; you will never know who is helped and blessed by your consistent kindness to all, known or unknown to you.

3. Let's talk of someone hosting a messenger of God without being aware.
4. 1Sam. 30:7-19 - David and his men are pursuing the men who destroyed their homes and took their families captive. Along the way, they encounter a man placed there by the Providence of God.

I. HIS SITUATION

- A. 1Sam. 30:11 - He was a foreigner.
 1. So were we - Eph. 2:1-2, 12; Isa. 59:2
- B. 1Sam. 30:13 - He was friendless.
 1. So were we - Psalm 142:4; John 15:13
- C. 1Sam. 30:12 - He was famished.
 2. So were we - Matt. 5:6; Psalm 107:9; John 4:13-14, 6:35

II. HIS SAVIOR

- A. 1Sam. 30:11 - He found him.
 1. So have we been found - John 6:44; Luke 19:10
- B. 1Sam. 30:12 - He fed him.
 1. So have we been fed - John 6:48, 51; Phil. 4:19

III. HIS SALVATION

- A. 1Sam. 30:13, 15 - Freed from the dominion of slavery; David gave him self-determination.
 1. Likewise, we are set free - Rom. 6:16; Luke 4:18
- B. 1Sam. 30:12 - Freed from death; David gave him life.
 1. Likewise, we are made alive - John 5:24, 11:23-27; Rom. 3:23, 6:23
- C. 1Sam. 30:13, 15 - Freed from disease and disuse; David gave him purpose and a future.
 1. Likewise, we have a purpose in this world and a home in the world to come - Eph. 2:10; 2Cor. 5:17-19

Conclusion:

- A. Aren't you glad Jesus found you, took you in as a friend not a stranger, and blessed you with all of these things?
 1. And how will you answer the Lord for having done all of this for you in unselfish, unconditional love?
 2. By doing the same for others.
 3. Heb. 13:1-2; Matt. 25:34-40
- B. If you fail to treat strangers and friends and help those unknown to you, you can count on the Lord taking back all that you received from Him.
 1. Matt. 5:46-47, 25:41-45