



Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

Hebrews 13:1-2

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- “Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”
- Two things need to be considered:

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- The word angel is the Greek word “aggelos, from aggelos (to bring tidings); a messenger; especially an angel; by implication, a preacher, messenger.”
(*Strongs - 32*)
- It is the same word translated “messenger” throughout scripture.
 - Luke 7:24 - “When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John.”
- It often speaks of people sent with a message and not necessarily angelic beings.

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- 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*)
- This is the only place where it is translated “entertain strangers”; it is normally translated as hospitality.
- 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.

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- Throughout the Old Testament “the angel of God” or simply “angels” came to deliver a message from God, directions or corrections, or to rescue men from harm.
- 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.
 - 2Sam. 14:17 - “Your maidservant said, ‘The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you.’”
 - 1Sam 29:9 - “Then Achish answered and said to David, ‘I know that you are as good in my sight as an angel of God’; nevertheless the princes of the Philistines have said, ‘He shall not go up with us to the battle.’”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- Sometimes the angels were seen.
 - 1Chron. 21:20 - “Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- Sometimes the angels were unseen.
 - Num. 22:22-27 - “Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. 24 Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. 25 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. 26 Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- When the angel of God appeared, one would know it; it was not entertaining unaware.
 - Judges 13:6 - “So the woman came and told her husband, saying, ‘A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.’”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- When the angel of God appeared, one would know it; it was not entertaining unaware.
 - Gen. 18:1-3 - “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.’”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- When the angel of God appeared, one would know it; it was not entertaining unaware.
 - Matt. 28:2-4 - “And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- When the angel of God appeared, one would know it; it was not entertaining unaware.
 - Luke 1:11-12 - “Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- 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 - “For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve.”
 - Acts 8:26 - “Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying...”
 - Acts 12:7 - “Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, ‘Arise quickly!’ And his chains fell off his hands.”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- 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.
- It was a time when those who traveled with the Gospel would not have survived without those faithful who took them in.
- The principle of hospitality is still a binding Bible imperative.
- You will never know who is helped by your consistent kindness to all, known or unknown to you.

1Samuel 30:7-19

- David hosted a messenger of God without being aware.

His Situation

- He was a foreigner.
 - 1Sam. 30:11 - “Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water.”

His Situation

- So were we.
 - Eph. 2:1-2, 12 - “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world... 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”
 - Isa. 59:2 - “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”

His Situation

- He was friendless.
 - 1Sam. 30:13 - “Then David said to him, To whom do you belong, and where are you from? And he said, I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick.”

His Situation

- So were we.
 - Psalm 142:4 - “Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul.”
 - John 15:13 - “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”

His Situation

- He was famished.
 - 1Sam. 30:12 - “And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights.”

His Situation

- So were we.
 - Matt. 5:6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”
 - Psalm 107:9 - “For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.”

His Situation

- So were we.
 - John 4:13-14 - “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’”
 - John 6:35 - “And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

His Savior

- He found him.
 - 1Sam. 30:11 - “Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water.”
- So have we been found.
 - John 6:44 - “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
 - Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

His Savior

- He fed him.
 - 1Sam. 30:12 - “And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights.”
- So have we been fed.
 - John 6:48, 51 - “I am the bread of life... 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”
 - Phil. 4:19 - “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

His Salvation

- Freed from the dominion of slavery; David gave him self-determination.
 - 1Sam. 30:13, 15 - “Then David said to him, ‘To whom do you belong, and where are you from?’ And he said, ‘I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick...’ 15 And David said to him, ‘Can you take me down to this troop?’ So he said, ‘Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop.’”

His Salvation

- Likewise, we are set free.
 - Rom. 6:16 - “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”
 - Luke 4:18 - “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

His Salvation

- Freed from death; David gave him life.
 - 1Sam. 30:12 - “...So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him...”
- Likewise, we are made alive.
 - John 5:24 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

His Salvation

- John 11:23-27 - “Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ 24 Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ 25 Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ 27 She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’”
- Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

His Salvation

- Freed from disease and disuse; David gave him purpose and a future.
 - 1Sam. 30:13, 15
- Likewise, we have a purpose in this world and a home in the world to come.
 - Eph. 2:10 - “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

His Salvation

- 2Cor. 5:17-19 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- Aren't you glad Jesus found you, took you in as a friend not a stranger, and blessed you with all of these things?
- And how will you answer the Lord for having done all of this for you in unselfish, unconditional love?
- **BY DOING THE SAME FOR OTHERS!!!**

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- Heb. 13:1-2 - “Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”
- Matt. 25:34-40

Unwittingly Entertaining Angels

- 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.
 - Matt. 5:46-47 - “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?”

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- Matt. 25:41-45 - “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’”