

God's Hospitality

This is a theme that runs throughout the Bible, reflecting His generosity and care. In the Old Testament we see God's hospitality reflected in: Genesis 1-2: God creates the world and prepares the earth as a home for humanity. He provides everything Adam and Eve need for life. Exodus 16: God provides manna and quail for the Israelites during their journey in the wilderness, offering them sustenance as they wander for 40 years. Leviticus 19:33-34: God commands the Israelites to show hospitality to foreigners and strangers, reminding them of their own experience in Egypt.

In the New Testament we see God's hospitality reflected in the Gospels, where Jesus multiplies a small offering of loaves and fish to feed a multitude. In Luke 5:27-32 where Jesus dines with tax collectors and sinners. In Matthew 25:35-40 where Jesus teaches that welcoming strangers, feeding the hungry, and caring for the sick is equivalent to doing those acts for Him. In John 14:2-3 Jesus promises that He is preparing a place for His followers in His Father's house, offering eternal hospitality.

So, Jesus' life and the teaching in the New Testament also echoes God's hospitality. Not surprisingly, this theme then continues with the early church.

Then in Revelation 19:9 we see the final picture of hospitality in the Bible with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Here all believers are invited to dine with Christ in the new creation.

God's hospitality, from providing for humanity in creation to the eternal invitation to His kingdom, reveals His loving, generous, and inclusive nature. Throughout the Bible, He calls His people to mirror His hospitality by caring for the vulnerable, and welcoming strangers.

Today as we gather at the Lord's table, we see another example of God's hospitality, as He welcomes any who love Him, to share in this meal of remembrance.

As always, we are all welcome at God's table.