

Glory

in the Highest

***** Christmas Hospitality *****

If God dropped in for Christmas at your place,
would you have enough space for Him?

In your house? + In your schedule?

In your budget? + In your emotions and energy?

Often times the inhospitable clutter
of our lives and hearts prevents us
from being able to enter into worship.



Unless we have space to receive God,
we can neither know Him nor respond to Him.

Uninvited Guests

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. ³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." ⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of fine flour and knead it and bake some bread." ⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. ⁹ "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as

she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?" ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son." ¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Genesis 18:1-15

The Mystery of Hospitality

- * God is pleased to receive our hospitality
- * As Trinity, God is fundamentally hospitable
- * God's self-revelation is an act of hospitality
- * Hospitality is the foundation for all worship
- * Knowing God becomes loving God just as
being known by God is being loved by God

Uncalled for Generosity

Genesis 18:10-33

Next Steps - Building a House of Love

Make your Christmas plan - Family Meeting

Who could we welcome in? Singles, Elderly, Divorced, Widowed, Newlyweds, Internationals, Disadvantaged, People without family. . .

Be hospitable to your immediate and extended family

Christmas Eve offering + Add a "hospitality" line item in your budget

For Further Study:

- * The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer
- * The Advent Conspiracy by Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, & Greg Holder

Places to LOVE ALL:

- * COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL – www.compassion.com
- * International Justice Mission – adventconspiracy.org
- * Teamwork Africa – teamworkafrica.com
- * B-Side Church (local) – www.bsidecommunity.com
- * Christmas Eve offering – Jacob's Well Benevolence Fund
- * Just help someone – No website needed

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