



Radical Hospitality

In his book, "The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," Bishop Robert Schnase invites us to think about several ways that churches can live out its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. We "practice" these concepts because they are attitudes and actions we can always improve upon. He begins by talking about "Radical Hospitality," which is a way of describing how we invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers, so that they find a spiritual home and discover life in Christ.

As we prepare to enter into this new series, I invite you to consider the following questions, Scripture passages, and prayer:

Q: Do you remember walking into your congregation for the very first time? What was it like? Who reached out to you?

"You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."
(Deuteronomy 10:19)

"Jesus said, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:35, 40)

PRAY: Dear God, open my heart so that I can see people as Jesus sees them, and see Jesus in the people you bring into our community. Make me attentive to others, and especially help me support the newcomer taking tentative steps toward you. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor David

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