

Love Each Other, Entertain Strangers, Remember Prisoners

September 22, 2019 – Hebrews 13:1-3 (NIV)

“Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

How many strangers have you entertained?

In Genesis chapters 18 and 19 we can read about how Abraham entertained and fed - three visitors, and one of the three was the Lord God, and the other two were angels. Abraham had water brought to wash their feet – and some water to drink. – He had Sarah bake some bread, a tender calf was butchered, and curds and milk were brought for them to eat.

After that account we can then read about LOT who entertained two angels – He asked them to spend the night at his home, and then he prepared a meal for them, which they ate, until they were disturbed by the young and old men of Sodom.

If and when you entertain strangers, you might ask yourself will there be those who take advantage of your hospitality and generosity? Yes of course, but God knows.

In these three verses from the letter to the Hebrews, the Lord God through the inspired writer is telling us:

Vs. 1 – Keep on loving each other as brothers.

What is love? We have heard it read more than once at weddings where it is written:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 – “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

With these words we see that Love is Active. Love is an ACTION Word. As was already mentioned: The writer to the Hebrews tells us:

Vs. 2 – Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

The Writer to the Hebrews also gives an example of:

Vs. 3 – Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember those in prison as if you were their FELLOW PRISONERS. FELLOW- Meaning, what would you like if you were in prison? How would you like people to treat you if YOU were in prison? On the Last Day Jesus will say to those who are believers:

Matthew 25:35-36 & 40 – For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of MINE you did for ME.”

Have you ever been mistreated? Whether accused rightly or wrongly. Remember that it was not fun, and it hurt and so be kind to others.

The greatest ACT of LOVE was and IS of course that Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Eph. 5:2)

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2) AMEN