

Angels Unawares

18: 1-15

Do not forget to show hospitality, for by this some have entertained angels unawares (Hebrews 13:2 NASB/KJV). We are not to be hospitable because on some occasion we might find ourselves ministering to **angels**. This should not be our *motivation* for our **hospitality**. We are to minister out of love, for the sake of those we help and for **God's** glory. The point here is that we can never know how important and far reaching a simple act of kindness may be. We minister out of need, not because of any consequences we are able to foresee. **Abraham** went out of **his** way to help three men who were passing by **his** tent. **He** did not wait to be asked for help but volunteered. It was an opportunity more than a duty. In fact, he considered the greater service to **himself**, saying: **If I have found favor in your eyes, my masters, do not pass your servant by (18:3)**. At the time **he** had no idea that two of the **men** were angels and that the third was **the Lord Himself**. And if **he** had known they were, it would have been no less right for **him** to be hospitable.

In a sense, we always minister to **the Lord** when we are hospitable, especially to fellow believers. **I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me (Matthew 25:40)**. To feed the hungry, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the imprisoned in **Jesus'** name is to serve **Him**. To turn our backs on those in need of such things is to turn our backs on **Him**. **I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me (Matthew 25:45).**²⁹⁷