

Luke 10:39 “She had a sister named Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard his word.”

NEWSLETTER: “MOMENTS WITH MARY”

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HOME IMPROVEMENT!

Hebrews 13:2 LB “Don’t forget to be kind to strangers, for some who done this, have entertained angels without realizing it!”

1 Peter 4:5 LB “Cheerfully share your home with those in need of a meal or a place to stay for the night.”

Romans 12:13 LB “When God’s children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner, or if they need it, lodging for the night.”

In the Early Church, it was considered a way of showing the love of Christ though fellow believers, to open your home to strangers. In today’s world, wisdom demands we be extremely careful in doing this. There are many ways to show kindness and hospitality with out putting yourself or your family at risk! Today’s News Media reports disasters in which people lose their loved ones and all their earthly possessions. We can share through our church outreaches by giving or sending workers into the field.

There are many legitimate Agencies that provide for the needy. If you have a heart to do and or to give, you do not have to look beyond your own neighborhood or community as a rule. Jesus said very clearly, when we help others, it is as if we personally helped Him in some way! Isn’t that amazing! Many people have a generous heart, while others close their ears to the cry for help. We need wisdom and discernment to know when and where to give! Sadly, there are still many “wolves in sheep’s clothing” out there!

With these thoughts in mind, I take a mental journey back to my childhood and recall how my parents’ home was always open to meet a need! I was very privileged in having parents who loved company and visiting others! My Folks were Leaders in their local church. My Mother often invited strangers and struggling Bible students home from church on a regular basis. Our home was far from elegant and we had a large family, but there was always room for “one more” at my Mother’s table!

The concepts of home and hospitality I grew up with helped shape my own ideas of how to treat others. Things familiar help to make us feel comfortable and confident. A Home Improvement plan begins early in life! Teaching children good manners is so important. They can learn to be relaxed and gracious hosts as well as guests when going elsewhere in such a setting. If our homes are happy and safe, others sense that peace when they enter our doors. That presents an air of welcome to others.

Our homes are a visual reflection of our family history. The pictures and mementos we collect can be a starting point for good conversations, sometimes leading to our personal testimony! Jesus was a gracious host. He fed thousands of people on more than one occasion! Not everyone understood He was the “Bread of Life”, but how could they ever forget the “dinners on the ground” He provided for them? Some may have come for whatever they could get out of it for themselves. Others walked away from the picnic with a New Life!

True hospitality reaches out to others, encourages them, and helps them in whatever way they are able. Remember! The LORD does not require more than He has given to us to share! I cringe when I hear TV Pastors telling people to use their credit cards to give money so God can “bless them”! That has never been God’s way as far as I can understand from the Bible!

Jesus came to serve, to be a servant. If that was His purpose, what should ours be? Not everyone has the “gift of hospitality” but every one can exercise kindness in their own way. The Bible gives us examples of this many times. Lazarus’ home was a place where Jesus was welcomed and felt comfortable. Martha was probable an excellent host and cook! In Cleopas’ home, strangers were welcomed. He did not recognize the stranger he brought home was Jesus, until they sat down to break bread!

Luke 10:5-9 LB “Whenever you enter a home, give it a blessing. If it is worthy of the blessing, the blessing will stand; if not, the blessing will return to you. When you enter a village, don’t shift around from home to home, but stay in one place, eating and drinking whatever is set before you. And don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, for the workman is worthy of his hire.” Great instructions!

In Luke 14:7-14 Jesus noticed that all who came to dinner were trying to sit near the head of the table. He gave this advice! “If you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t always head for the best seat. For if someone more respected than you shows up, the host will bring him over to where you are sitting and say, “Let this man sit here instead! And you, embarrassed, will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!” How humbling, as everyone watches as you have to change your place for the lowest seat in the house!

What a difference we could make if we were gracious one to the other! What a home improvement! It would solve a lot of problems in a great many homes! May we honor our Fathers and Mothers! We are promised long life if we bless them! Some of us have experienced the passing of our Parents, but we can bless others by sharing good memories of how they showed us the true meanings of Home Improvements with their love, guidance and protection!

God Bless! Mary Mayko

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