

**JESUS CAME TO DINNER!**  
**GENESIS CH18:1-8**

**ILLUSTRATION**

Our elected politicians are facing probably one of, if not the biggest problem, since the end of the second world war. The problem is one that causes huge division within our communities! It is probably the biggest problem the United Kingdom has ever faced in modern history! The problem is how do so many different nationalities, so many ethnic groups, with so many different values and beliefs live together in harmony?

In trying to solve this problem, politicians in the main, sadly, are also at the same time, ignoring the witness of their biggest ally, Christ's Church!

Many Welsh people will understand that often when we say "What's for dinner?", we are really talking about "lunchtime". And when we say "What's for tea?", we are really talking about our evening meal. I know that for many who are not Welsh, would dispute those definitions and that's fine. Either way, it is so wonderful having food together and enjoying one another's hospitality! The word "Hospitality" can be a noun and mean - **"the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers."** As we enter our 15<sup>th</sup> year at "The Mission Church", how can we still keep living for Jesus? When we demonstrate "Hospitality" we can honour Jesus!

**EAGER TO SERVE! v1-2**

The scene, as recorded by Moses, is initially one of Abraham resting around midday (**v1 – as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day**). With the sun directly above Abraham's encampment, and having completed all of the morning chores, and workers having returned to their tents, it was "siesta time", a time to sit back and rest in the heat of the day. We could easily think of Abraham, a 100 years old, almost nodding off, as we are told in v2 **"He lifted up his eyes and looked"**, as he had not heard or initially seen the 3 visitors!

We know from v1 that 1 of the 3 visitors is indeed "the Lord", (El-Shaddai, God Almighty Ch17:1), the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus! Abraham at this point, I would suggest, does not fully recognise the Lord Jesus, but from their appearance does understand that they are worthy of respect.

Look at Abraham's **spontaneous heart** response to the arrival of the 3 visitors:

- v2 Abraham ran (at 100 years old)
- v2 Abraham is eager to greet them
- v2 Abraham "bowed to the earth" to greet them ("Bowed" being the same Hebrew word for worship)

What are some of the things that Jesus says about serving?

***"Then the King will say to those on his right 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me'" (Matthew Ch24:34-36).***

To Jesus, when we serve mere human beings, it is like serving Him, and so important is serving others to Jesus, He uses it as evidence for the authentic Christian at **"THE FINAL**

***JUDGEMENT!” Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew Ch24:40).***

**EAGER TO PROVIDE HOSPITALITY! v3-5**

Abraham is eager to demonstrate hospitality to his visitors! He offers them simple refreshments:

- v3 do not just pass by
- v4 a little water
- v4 wash your feet
- v4 rest under the shade of the tree
- v5 a morsel (a mouth full) of bread
- v5 that you may pass on

**EAGER TO PREPARE! V6-8**

But is it just a “happy meal” version?

- v6 three seahs, equivalent to 22 litres!
- v6 cakes!
- v7 a calf
- v8 curds or yoghurts
- v8 milk

This is no “Happy Meal”, but a banquet for the 3 visitors! ***This is the only place in Scripture before the incarnation of Jesus, where He eats a meal with human beings!***

And look at the speed to which these things occur:

- v2 ran
- v6 quickly + quick
- v7 ran + quickly

***Abraham does not eat with them but stands waiting, like a waiter at a restaurant!***

**APPLICATION**

As we enter into our 15<sup>th</sup> year, how have we and how will we as a Gospel Community, continue demonstrating hospitality in a world that is continuing to be even more fractured?

1. Opening up our homes!
2. Sunday mornings!
3. Family Services!
4. Special events!
5. Love in action!
6. Breakfasts for the “Setting Up Team”!
7. Hampers!

***Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew Ch24:40).***