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Christian Hospitality

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Man, if left to exercise only his human nature, will fall into certain patterns of behavior. Humanistic!!!

II Pet. 1:4. God's great promises prompt Christians to rise above humanistic to the divine-nature!!

Text, a challenge even for Christians, to rise above the human-behavioral-level to the level of the divine. Text must be fitted into CON-text to get its full impact.

I. VS. 1-6. JESUS EXERCISED MERCY ABOVE SACRIFICE. "Watched"
A. Jesus invited to a feast to trap Him in a plot. V. 1.
B. Man afflicted with DROPSY appeared. (Edema—swelling of tissues due to water-collection near surface of skin, due to allergies, schlorosis, low protein, poor diet.)
C. Jesus helped the unfortunate and silenced his accusers

II. VS. 12-14. CHRIST BROADENS THE CHRISTIAN'S HOSP. PATTERN.
B. Four possibilities noted:
   2. SELF-INTEREST: An investment for future returns.
   3. FEEL SUPERIOR: Cruel way to hurt the poor & needy and elevate self in own eyes.
   4. CANNOT HELP GIVING: Rabbis had two axioms.
      1. True giving is giving when the giver does not know to whom he is giving; and the receiver does not know whom he is receiving. Motives are right.
      2. He who gives to get a reward gets none, but he who gives to get no reward is certain of one!
C. Rest of lesson prompted by over-stuffing of rich to eat
D. Invite: Poor. Maimed. Blind. None can repay!
   1. Does not condemn feeding own family. 1 Tim. 5:8.
   3. Does not condemn feeding the rich. Right motive.
   4. Does condemn:
      a. Inviting the rich only! This group overbalanced.
      b. Inviting only those who can repay! Poor motive!
      c. Neglecting the poor. "One meal for the rich could feed many of the poor."
      d. Putting on a show for personal advantage.
E. QUESTION: Do you know of any who are doing this???
 III. 1. We tried it at least once: Charleston, Miss. Thanks. Never seen girl again. Never regretted inviting her.

 III. 2. (Raymond Crawford) Lions Club (Hillsboro) Invited boys to fine meal once a year or so. He's never forgotten Oak Cliff Civitan Club has 20 at Whitney this week. I MEAN ANYONE INVITING THE POOR NOW? TODAY? YES.

 III. 3. MID MCKNIGHT: Surprises wife quite often. No telling "Who's coming to dinner next." Guess they agree on this UNUSUAL plan and MAKE it work! It fits the Lord's command!!!!! Vs. 13.

 III. 4. IRA NORTH: Invites orphans, derelicts, convicts, winoes, hippies, juv. del., and preachers in freely. Also tramps and bums. Tries to teach them! This too fits the Lord's command.

INV: A CHRISTIAN: is an unusual person. Peculiar: above average or superior!

You want to become a Christian tonight???


Your life a disappointment? Can correct that now!

Acts 8:22-23.

Identify.
Mysterious Godmother

A bright young lady, pretty too, dropped by our editorial offices the other day to show us her PhD dissertation. We couldn't understand it, but others can. It is so useful and so well done that two publishers want the manuscript.

There are some unusual things about this document. One is that an older professor, the standard authority in this field, opened his files to her, helped her correct errors he had made and urged the publishers to print her manuscript. As she explained, it would have been an easy, human thing for this man to refuse to help her.

She's grateful to him, and even more grateful to someone she has never met. This is a mystery woman out in West Texas. Wealthy from oil and cattle, this West Texan pays huge taxes. But she helps some 40 deserving young people finance their college educations. They never have any contact with their benefactor; her intermediary provides the money and asks only that they make progress toward their chosen goals.

"My fairy godmother" is the description of the young lady for her mysterious friend who financed her education. "Godfather" would be an apt description, too, for the understanding, helpful professor. Both of them deserve praise for advancing knowledge and helping young Americans.