

# GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY

By Keith Greer

Whenever discussing the subject of hospitality the woman best known for her hospitality was the Shunammite woman who took in a stranger named Elisha, 2 Kings 4:8-10. This example was in the pure sense the meaning of hospitality. Why? Elisha was a complete stranger! Let us discuss some things about hospitality ...

**It is done unto the Lord.** "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' {Matthew 25:40} When we extend hospitality to others it is as if we are doing it for the Lord. Could it be said if I refuse to be hospitable - I'm refusing to be hospitable to the Lord also? Give serious consideration to your answer.

**Hospitality not to be done for recompense.** " ... When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just." {Luke 14:12-14} Do we only practice hospitality to those who will practice it back to us? Motives are important to God!

**Hospitality should be done without grumbling.** "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. " {1 Peter 4:9,10} How does one practice hospitality in a grudging way? By complaining and murmuring about having to do something for another brother or sister. If our spirit is wrong when we practice hospitality it profits us nothing and really not the other person because it is not done from a heart that is sincere. What the church needs today are brethren who are lovers of hospitality. When all the time, expense, and effort is added up for practicing hospitality - the rewards of our actions far outweigh the costs! Are you a lover of hospitality - giving or receiving? \*\*\*