



FIRST  
THINGS  
FIRST



FIRST  
THINGS  
FIRST



FIRST  
THINGS  
FIRST



# Welcoming The Stranger

*Hebrews 13:2 • July 5, 2026*

Christianity is the first truly multi-E\_\_\_\_\_ religion. It was the society of equal outsiders.

Welcoming and serving O\_\_\_\_\_ was always the plan (Gen 12:3; 2 Chron 6:32-33; Isa 2:2; Lk 4:18-27).

Hospitality means “love of the S\_\_\_\_\_” (Heb 13:2)

Who is my stranger?

My stranger is the O\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 8:1-4; Mk 1:40-45; Lk 5:12-15; 17:11-19)

My stranger is the W\_\_\_\_\_ -D\_\_\_\_\_ (Lk 19; Jn 4: Rm 5:8)

My stranger is the person far away from H\_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 1-2)

My stranger is any person who isn't like M\_\_\_\_\_.

Hospitality is required of all church L\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim 3:2; 5:10; Tit 1:8) and for the whole church (1 Pet 4:8-10).

In Jesus' judgement day scene, he says “I was a S\_\_\_\_\_, and you took me in” (Matt 25:35, 38, 43, 44).

There are 2 Reasons for ‘Welcoming the Stranger’ as a central virtue:

- (1) Deeper basis for hospitality: We ourselves, like Jesus and like Israel, are S\_\_\_\_\_ (Lev 19:33-34; Deut 10:17-19, 22; John 1; Heb 11:13-14)
- (2) Greater scope for hospitality: We ourselves, like Jesus and Israel, welcome everyone as H\_\_\_\_\_.

The early church was D\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:5, 39; 13:1-2; Gal 3:26-29)

Where we missed it: by refusing to welcome brothers John calls S\_\_\_\_\_ (3 John 3:5, 8-11)

The poem written on a plaque inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty calls her the “Mother of E\_\_\_\_\_” who offers a “world-wide welcome”: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

How to practice this

Make Room in your H\_\_\_\_\_.

Make Room in your S\_\_\_\_\_.

Make Room in your H\_\_\_\_\_.

Make Room in your C\_\_\_\_\_.

**Answers: Ethnic; Outsiders; Stranger; Outcast, Wrong-Doer,  
Home, Me; Leaders; Stranger; Host; Diverse;  
Strangers; Exiles; Heart, Schedule, Home, Church.**