



# ON HOSPITALITY

Monday, March 27 | John 6:1-15

I am hosting a dinner at my house. You receive an invitation to attend, or to let me know if you are unable to attend. Once I know how many people will attend and when they will arrive, I can then prepare my place to receive the number of people who have RSVP'd. This is how we define the parameters for hospitality.

This is not the model of hospitality we find in John 6 when Jesus feeds the 5000. Jesus, as well as his disciples, was not expecting the crowds to follow him across the Sea of Galilee. However, Jesus' hospitality was not, is not, confined by the expectation, but instead is open to the need. Jesus' hospitality is not confined by the political preference or theological location, but instead is opened by a radical, extravagant love; a love for the other.

We tend to limit ourselves by the tangible resources we have at our immediate disposal. Our hospitality tends to begin with what we have to offer; Jesus' hospitality begins with where there is a need. We read this passage and focus on the miracle of the multiplication of the food. I offer another reading where we focus on the miracle of Jesus' radical, extravagant, unconditional hospitality that continually affirms and gives value to all of humanity.

**Prayer:** God, grant me today the radical love to be present with people that You bring in my midst. Allow me to understand what it means to be hospitable to them with no expectation of return.

Written by Chris Bohon