

no place like home

fred may
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A. God, the host

Psalms 23:5 – 6 (GNT)

⁵ You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim. ⁶ I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live.

God, the guest

Matthew 18:5 (AMP)

⁵ And whoever receives and accepts and welcomes one little child like this for My sake and in my name receives and accepts and welcomes Me.

B. The 5 Aspects of Biblical Hospitality

1. INVITATION – to a CHRIST Encounter

- Getting the word out - through information & follow up.

Luke 14:16 – 17 (NLT)

¹⁶ Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. ¹⁷ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.'

- Creating anticipation – through focus on relevant personal needs

Matthew 11:28 (NLT)

²⁸ Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

2. PREPARATION – (shaping) The Space Encounter

John 14:2 - 3 (NLT)

² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

I Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

⁹ That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

Cultivating a change-conductive climate

- In both dimensions
- Meticulous Design + Planning
- Care driven excellence (vs vanity-driven perfectionism)
- Conveying and articulating honour and respect
- Sense of Security – through guaranteed givens
- Host team members who enjoy priority over guests
- Team is united, focussed, motivated and skilled

3. RECEPTION – (facilitating) The Human Encounter

- the art of opening hearts' doors

Romans 15:7 (AMP)

⁷ Welcome and receive [to your hearts] one another, then, even as Christ has welcomed and received you, for the glory of God.

- the art and skill of 'hearing' and 'seeing' the guest

Revelation 3:20 (NLT)

²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

- developing sensitivity – unique individual + culture; personal space and pace

Luke 7:36 – 40, 44 – 46 (ESV)

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him

at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

4. CELEBRATION – The Value Encounter

Matthew 10:40 – 42 (NLT)

⁴⁰ "Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. ⁴¹ If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs.

⁴² And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

4. CELEBRATION – The Value Encounter

- Celebrating a guest excites the heart of GOD
- Everyone is a gift from GOD
- Everyone brings a reward from GOD
- We facilitate the contribution

5. PRESENTATION – The Heart Encounter

- Deploying the power of joy

Nehemiah 12:43 (NLT)

⁴³ Many sacrifices were offered on that joyous day, for God had given the people cause for great joy...

Psalms 16:11

"... I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight"

- Engaging the heart

John 21:12 – 13, 15 (NLT)

¹² “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said... Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish.

¹⁵ After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

- Engaging the mind / “anointing the head” – connect with, stimulate, invigorate and inspire hope

Psalms 23:5 – 6 (NLT)

⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.