

Let's Get Salty
Next Steps
January 24, 2021
Colossians 4:5-17

OPENING PRAYER:

Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people;
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers;
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free.
In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and our prosperity,
we partake of your divine presence. Amen.

--Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

This weekend we discussed the nature of Christian Hospitality. In Colossians 4, Paul implores the church at Colossae to welcome his fellow workers. Choose one of the following activities/discussions:

- Remember a time in your life when you received an unexpected gift. How did you feel at that moment?
- What was it like to get a gift and not give one as well?
- In this short letter, look at how many verses Paul spent sending greetings and desiring the church to welcome his friends. In a letter this short, what is the ratio?
- What do these verses teach us about hospitality and welcoming others.

GOING DEEPER:

- In advancing the Gospel (v. 2-6), what role is played by prayer? Watchfulness? Thankfulness? Open doors? Closed doors or chains? Wise actions? Opportunism? Graceful talk? Salty talk?
- Why is thankfulness such a key ingredient in the Christian life?
- From v. 5-6, what principles do you want to build into your life as you relate to non-believers?
- Seeing how Paul related with a team of fellow Christians, what does that imply for you? For your small group?
- Of the qualities used to describe these people, which one would you like others to say about you in five years?
- How has your respect and love for Christ grown through this study of Colossians?
- What from this book has helped you to develop a more thankful heart?

NEXT STEPS:

- What is one way you can show thankfulness and hospitality this week.
- What one thing can you do differently this week to be more hospitable?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Dear God, you alone know the loneliness and thus the terror of our lives. Indeed you know us better than we can know ourselves. Give us Your knowledge of us so that we might not be alone. Be with those who seem simply lost, abandoned, alienated from friends and from You. Heal us with Your unrelenting hospitality, so that we are capable of breaking through the splendid isolation we create, which we call freedom and power. Help us to be touched and be able to touch without violence. We know that is possible only because You have touched us with the body and blood of Your Son. Thank You for that. Amen. ---Stanley Hauerwas