

“One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After that, whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat. She said to her husband, “I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God. Let’s build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by.” 2 Kings 4:8-10 NLT

lectio // 2 Kings 4:8-17

The evangelist’s quarters! Having lived in Southern California my entire life, I missed out on many of the cultural differences that exist across the United States. This is even more evident in churches. Working for Royal Family KIDS and having the honor and privilege of traveling and speaking all over the world, it was amazing to see how different the church is outside of California. I am positive that churches in middle america got their idea of an “evangelist” quarters from this passage. Robin and I were able to go to Sullivan, Missouri just miles from the the most famous caverns and caves in the country. And the church had a evangelist quarters, a small two room apartment built right into their second floor education wing. It had a kitchenette, a nice-sized bedroom and a private bathroom. The pastor gave us the keys to the church and the room upstairs where we stayed on the Saturday night before the service. They had stocked the frig with breakfast items and had snacks and drinks for us as well. We had never spent the night in a church before, so it was interesting listening to all the sounds of the church at night! Then in the morning, we woke to the senior women’s sunday school class preparing right next door to the kitchen and giggled at their lively conversation about their week. The church had supplied a place for guests and it meant that they could house us and save money on a hotel room (of which there were none in town!) It was very creative and we were so grateful for their forethought and hospitality. This Shunem woman had the same idea. She had the means and wanted to provide hospitality when Elisha came through town. What an amazing friendship that must have developed between the husband, wife, Elisha and Gehazi.

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Dad,

Hospitality comes in so many different forms. It feels like it is a lost art, especially in So Cal. It was and is such a vital part of who you are and it becomes really difficult to foster not only a spirit of hospitality, but also affirm that Biblical gift in others in our modern world. It makes me miss those simple gestures of kindness, home cooked meals and genuine time and conversation at someone’s home. Can we bring it back, please?

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root