

Get A Room

According to Plunkett Research, there are over 50,000 lodging properties currently operating in the United States, providing nearly 5 million hotel & motel-type rooms daily. These rooms have an occupancy rate of 63.2% and generate some \$154 billion in total revenues annually. One such guest room becomes infamous in today's Templates of Truth.

The Passover festivities had already begun in Jerusalem, and Jesus had sent two of His disciples into the city to secure a place for them to share the Passover meal. His instructions were – *“Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, ‘Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready.*” (Mark 14:13-15). Carefully orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, this faithful homeowner had prepared a room where worship to God could take place, but not fully aware of the extent to which this room would accommodate Christian history. In this very room, Jesus would have His last supper with the disciples before His death, providing the model for which we continue our observance of Holy Communion. Here, Jesus would wash their feet, inform them about the coming of the Holy Spirit and how He would indwell & empower them, and offer the teaching about the vine-branch relationship. Following His resurrection, it would be in this room that He would make a number of appearances to the disciples. And yes, it was likely this same upper room where the Holy Spirit would come on the Day of Pentecost and the church as we know it today was born. I am sure that when the homeowner was preparing this room, he had no idea of how God would use it to change the course of human history.

I have to wonder how many of us have prepared such a room in our house. A room specifically planned and designated as a guest room for God; a place where God is especially welcomed and where we plan to meet with Him daily. Moses prepared such a place: *Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp...and he called it the tent of meeting. And it came about, that everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting...(and) whenever Moses entered the tent...the Lord would speak with Moses...face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend* (Exodus 33:7-11). I'm afraid that for many Christians, the only room where effort is made to meet God, is the Sunday School classroom or the sanctuary worship room at the church once a week. Or perhaps, too often, we have a “panic room” mentality, where we only want to meet God when we get into trouble and need His help ASAP.

These thoughts remind me of what Jesus told His disciples in John 14:2-3 – *“In My Father's house are many dwelling places (rooms)...I go to prepare a place (room) for you...that where I am, there you may be also.”* Jesus has prepared a room where we can meet Him; why would we not also prepare a room where He can meet us? That room Jesus has prepared awaits us when we enter His presence in heaven. Between now and then, however, we have the incredible opportunity to prepare a place where He can meet with us right now.

Who would ever think that a simple room could so revolutionize one's spiritual life. I will submit to you, however, that if you prepare a room or designate a place to meet God every day, that is exactly what will take place. When God sees that nurturing an intimate relationship with Him is so important to you that you will actually prepare a special room where you and He meet together, He will fill that place with the glory of His presence like you have never encountered Him before in your life. There, as you engage in an in-depth study of His Word; and, as you humbly kneel in His presence each day, He will speak to you, "face to face" just like a man speaks to his friend. The strength, insight, wisdom and spiritual power you will gain from that time with Him, will dramatically transform who you are. And just like that upper room in Jerusalem, God may change the course of your life, that of your spouse & children, and give birth to divine history that will affect the lives of many for generations to come – all from the intimate walls of your special room.

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide in Christ. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in the Lord Jesus.

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