

and easy access to the homes of neighbouring badger families. I also learned that badgers are nocturnal animals, sleeping during the day and emerging from their underground homes at night to look for food.

But here's the point that really fascinated me: If a badger can't make it home before the sun comes up, he may stay and rest awhile with another badger family before heading back home. And that's not all. Sometimes, even a visiting fox looking for a place to take shelter might be accommodated by a family of badgers! How's that for hospitality?

In his letter to the Romans, Paul wrote, "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13). Peter reminded us, "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9).

As Christians who are all part of God's family, we are called to show hospitality to our brothers and sisters in Christ, just the way a furry little black and white badger graciously welcomes a fellow badger that needs a place to rest. On top of that, the Lord asks us to be especially hospitable to strangers and those in need, regardless of whether they are Christians. It is clear when we read in Deuteronomy 10:19, "you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt," that God cares about the strangers we come in contact with.

Will you be like the badger who extends hospitality-- even to the fox? --

REFLECTION

- Who are the "aliens" in my midst? What can I do today to help them?
- Have I ever been the "alien"? How did that make me feel. Did anyone go out of his or her way to show hospitality to me?
- Do I, consciously or unconsciously, reject those who are different from me?
- Will the Lord be able to say to me one day, "I was a stranger and you invited Me in"? (Matthew 25:35).

An open door begins with an open heart.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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The Hospitable Badger

When I was doing some research for a children's article, I unearthed some interesting tidbits about badgers. My digging revealed that badgers are very sociable little creatures.

People sometimes even speak of "badger cities," because several badger families link up and connect their homes with a maze of underground burrows and passages. This network of tunnels gives the badgers quick





I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Prepare for the End II

In 1 Peter 4:7-11 Peter gives us 4 essentials for end time living:

1. Prayer,
2. Love, [last time]

3. _____, verses 7-9

(Acts 28:7-8) "In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.

{8} And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him."

(Luke 8:1-3) "Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, {2} and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities; Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, {3} and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance."



(Matthew 25:40) "'And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"



4. _____, verses 7, 10-11

(Matthew 25:20-21) "'So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' {21} "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"

(Matthew 25:24-28) "'Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. {25} 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' {26} "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you

knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. {27} 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. {28} 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.'"

(Exodus 22:19) "'Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.'"

(James 5:8) "'.. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.'"

