

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"ANGELS AND STRANGERS"

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2

Some time ago, I was given a book from the Sunday School titled, Praying for Strangers: An Adventure of the Human Spirit by River Jordan. It is a fascinating book containing stories about the author meeting strangers and praying for them. As I reflect on Jordan's obedience to the Holy Spirit and the results of her interactions, I am reminded of our scripture for today. We know that angels are spiritual beings who are God's messengers and who perform many other tasks. I love Psalm 91:11-12: ***"For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."*** This scripture reminds me of the children's song: "All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord, my soul to keep; angels watching over me."

During this unusual time of pandemics, upheavals, racial injustice, police brutality, and political unrest, we may have encountered different strangers. Sometimes, we may encounter strangers in worship service, or while engaged in our normal activities, or even on street corners. Whenever we do, it is wise to pay attention, to be on guard, and to remain alert. It is an interesting question the Psalmist asks in Psalm 8:4-5: ***"What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor."*** Yes, the Psalmist questions God about the people He created. Perhaps, he was wondering: "LORD, why do you bother to think about humans and care for them? Look around at how messy they are; look at how they cannot get along with each other. Observe all the fighting, disagreements, conflict, and headaches human beings cause each other and even their blatant disregard for You, Lord!" Isaiah 43:14 is one of several scriptures which expresses the Lord's complaint against humanity very well: ***"You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses."*** However, the psalmist gives an intriguing and enlightening answer to his own ponderings: ***"Lord, you made human beings just a little lower than the angels and you have crowned them with glory and honor."*** Wow! How inspiring and uplifting. It simply is awe-inspiring to reflect on this truth: ***"So God created human beings in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."*** (Genesis 1:2) I also love First John 3:2: ***"Dear friends, now we are children of God; and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know when Christ appears, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is."***

It behooves us to be incredibly careful about giving God Glory and Honor. After all, God has been so kind in bestowing glory and honor on us who are so unworthy. So, the next time we encounter a stranger, it behooves us to be kind to them because they too have been made in God's image. Additionally, we may be entertaining an angel and not even know it! A final word of wisdom concerning interacting with strangers: always pray, use wisdom, and let the Holy Spirit lead you. Enough said! Amen.

Prayer Dear Heavenly Father,
We give you Honor, Glory and Praise today for your goodness and kindness toward us! You truly are worthy of our Praise. Forgive us for our inhumanity to each other and help us to be more loving and caring toward strangers. Thank you for your angels who watch over us! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?
