

Bringing it Home For Sunday, June 28, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



Do you know what a door mat is?

A door mat is a small rug. Maybe you have one at home. You put it in front of your front door. It's sturdy, so guests can wipe rain or mud or snow from their shoes or boots before coming indoors. That way people don't slip or fall, and it saves a lot of work cleaning the floor.

Sometimes door mats have a greeting printed on them. Some greetings are funny, like "wipe your paws," but most of them are just one word:

“Welcome”

Jesus used the word Welcome a lot in today's Bible story. We are told that God cares how we welcome each other. God notices even when we give someone a simple drink of water.

This isn't surprising. People who live in deserts, as Jesus's ancestors did, know that welcoming someone -- giving them shelter and food and water -- is a matter of life and death. Our stories from the Old Testament are full of people welcoming strangers as honored guests.

When Jesus's friends were sent out to share the Good News of the Kingdom, Jesus expected them to be welcomed into private homes.

Later, as the early Church was growing, Apostles would go to new cities and expect to be offered hospitality

by fellow Christians or even by curious Jews or Gentiles.

This practice -- inviting strangers into our homes -- is not so common today. But we can still be welcoming.

Think about it. Churches may not have Welcome mats outside the front door, but visitors can tell pretty quickly if they are welcome. It's true at school, or on sports teams, or in the Scouts. Any time someone new arrives, we can greet them and be helpful, or we can ignore them.

Which do you think God wants us to do?

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for welcoming us into your church family. Help us to follow your example. Amen

Today's Gospel – **Matthew 10:40-42**

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Artwork: *The Seven Works of Mercy* by, ca. 1606–1616, by Flemish painter Frans Francken II (1581–1642). From the collection of the Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester UK.