



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Walking in Truth
THEME Hebrews Revisited

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 13 was written to Jewish Christians facing persecution from both Jews and Romans, which led them to struggle with their faith. This chapter expresses what it means to have faith demonstrated, following on from Hebrews 12 which was focused on defining faith. Hebrews 13:1-5 encourages demonstration of faith through loving others with compassion, commitment and contentment. Hebrews 13:7-16 encourages demonstration of faith by walking in truth.

WALKING IN TRUTH IN THREE ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES

- **Our Focus: The Word**

Hebrews 13:7 reminds us that beyond remembering the leaders of the church and those who mentored us, we should also consider the result of their conduct and imitate their faith. It is not about the people, but more importantly, how they have lived out the word of God. The leaders referred to in this verse are those who have demonstrated their faith visibly to us. The application for us is thus to imitate the faith of these leaders.

Hebrews 13:8-9 explains further why it is important to focus on the Word of God. It is a reality that deception will creep into the church. Jesus Christ is the same in the past, present and future, but there will always be new strange and varied teachings that will surface. It is therefore important for us to be discerning based on true Scripture. Let our priority be focused on living out Scripture and not be overly occupied with strange teachings. James 1:22 reminds us that beyond mere knowledge, the Word of God must be lived out. We will not truly experience the true value of the Word until we apply it.

- **Our Model: Jesus Christ**

In Hebrews 13: 11-13 we see the word “outside” repeated in each verse. People who need to be “outside” the gate is a reference to those who need to be crucified because they did not want those facing capital punishment to be within the city. Jesus Christ was similarly crucified outside the city. Therefore, the significance of “going out to him” is to bear His reproach. This means that we must be prepared to be identified together with Jesus Christ and be willing to share the same shame He went through. There are times that we might be laughed and mocked

at for our faith but we must not be ashamed of Jesus. It is only when we are not ashamed of Jesus that we can bear His reproach – which is a privilege.

Jesus gave himself fully to God, so we should be fully committed to give to God as well. We have been crucified with Jesus and our lives should be lived for him. Let's put aside our fears and follow where God wants us to serve Him. Let's not take the call to share the Gospel lightly, as it is an urgent call for all believers to be witnesses for God. We must care deeply for those around us, instead of subscribing to a sanitised Christianity where everything is rosy. We should seize every opportunity that God sends our way to share the Gospel. Even if we are rejected or persecuted for our faith, it is okay because it allows us to bear the reproach of Jesus. Truth is seen in our model Jesus Christ.

- **Our Response: Worship**

In Hebrews 13:14-15, we are reminded that we cannot build our confidence on this world that we see right now, but in the world that is to come. With our eyes focused on what is to come, we are called to offer up lives of worship to the Lord. Hebrews 13:16 expresses that worship is more than just saying praises and singing songs; it is also about our actions. God is pleased when we worship him not just with our lips, but also when we serve & bless others with our hands. Worship is the expression of the Truth within us.

CONCLUSION

Walking in truth is to apply the word of God in our lives, to model Jesus Christ, even if it means bearing His reproach. Finally we are called to respond to worship God in both our words and deeds. Allow God to speak to you today and show you how you can serve Him.

QUESTIONS

1. What is one way that you have applied the Word of God in your life recently?

2. Reflect on a time when you had to bear the reproach of Jesus for your faith. How did you feel and what encouraged you during that time?

3. Has God placed a name or group of people in your heart to reach out to? How will you respond to serve and bless them?