

## Hebrews Bible Study

### Hebrews 13:7-19

#### *Four Ways to Respond to the Great Gift of Jesus*

#### Outline

##### Introduction

- A. Chapter 13 - Specific instructions on how to respond to what God has done for you in and through Jesus
  - a. Last week (13:1-6) – Love
  - b. This week (13:7-19) – Four specific commands
    - i. Centered around: Continuing to hold onto the true gospel message
    - ii. Centered around: Offering our entire lives to God as an offering of thanksgiving and praise
- B. Pattern of Indicatives and Imperatives
  - a. Indicatives – A truth about God’s grace in Jesus/reminder of his New Covenant promises
  - b. Imperatives – A command that tells you how to respond
  - c. We obey from a heart that rests in God’s grace (his love and promises) and out of thanksgiving and praise

Big Question: How should we respond to the great gift of Jesus?

- 1. Cling to the gospel message and imitate the “race of faith” of the leaders who taught it to you
  - A. A first group of leaders in this passage
    - a. Those who first brought them the gospel
  - B. Imperative - Remember them
    - a. Consider their lives – their races of faith
    - b. Imitate their lives – run your race of faith like theirs
  - C. Indicative – Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever
  - D. The imperative needed because of false teaching
    - a. Moralistic need for ceremonial foods in order to be strengthened
    - b. No benefit to you
  - E. Indicative – Our hearts are actually strengthened by grace
  - F. Imperative – Don’t be swept away by false, moralistic teaching
  - G. We have the right and authority to eat from a new altar

Big Question: How should we respond to the great gift of Jesus?

- 2. Join Jesus by bearing his disgrace as an outsider
  - A. The Old Covenant – An old altar and an old priesthood

- a. The Day of Atonement
- b. Outside the camp
- B. The New Covenant – A new altar and a new priesthood (Indicative)
  - a. Jesus suffered outside the camp
  - b. He is the altar where we are made holy
  - c. We are the true priesthood
- C. Imperative – God outside the camp to Jesus and bear his disgrace
- D. Indicative – We have an enduring city that his coming

Big Question: How should we respond to the great gift of Jesus?

3. Offer your words and deeds as a sacrifice of praise to God

- A. We do this *through Jesus*
- B. We draw near to worship God and serve him (Imperative)
  - a. With our words – Openly profess the name of Jesus
    - i. To believers
    - ii. To unbelievers
  - b. With our deeds – Do good and share with others
    - i. A reminder to love
    - ii. Hebrews 10:24-25
    - iii. Hebrews 10:32-34
    - iv. Hebrews 13:1-3
- C. Our acts of worship/serve please God (Indicative)

Big Question: How should we respond to the great gift of Jesus?

4. Follow and pray for the trustworthy leaders God has given you

- A. A second group of leaders in this passage – their current church leaders
- B. Have confidence in them and submit to their authority
  - a. They keep watch over you as those who will give an account
  - b. It can be difficult, but it's to our benefit
- C. Pray for your leaders

**To Discuss Next Week**

1. Some of the “indicatives” (truths about the grace of God in Jesus and his New Covenant promises) in this passage are short reminders of things taught elsewhere. For each of them, go back to the longer passages and write out a longer explanation of what the author taught.
  - A. 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” See Hebrews 1:1-4; 7:17-29; 10:12-18

- B. 13:12 – “Jesus suffered...to make the people holy through his own blood.” See Hebrews 9:11-10:18
  - C. 13:14 – “We are looking for the city that is to come.” See Hebrews 11:10-16; 12:22-29
2. Hebrews 13:7 talks about imitating the life of faith of those who brought you to the gospel. Go back to Hebrews 11 – What specifically do we need to imitate?
  3. Read Leviticus 16. What do you learn about the Day of Atonement that helps you understand Hebrews 13:11-13 better?
  4. The author also introduced some new information (a new indicative) in 13:12-13. What did you learn about his sacrifice about him suffering “outside the camp”?
  5. Hebrews 13:15 commands us to “continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise.” Read Romans 12:1-2. How do Paul’s words about offering yourself as a sacrifice add to your understand of Hebrews? And what’s the difference between offering yourself to God as a sacrifice of praise versus offering a sacrifice to God to earn his favor?
  6. Katie summarized the imperatives in this section into four commands: Cling to the gospel message and imitate the “race of faith” of those who taught you. Join Jesus by bearing his disgrace as an outsider. Offer your words and deeds as a sacrifice of praise to God. Follow and pray for the trustworthy leaders God has given you and me. Explain these in your own words. And what ones is God specifically convicting you about or encouraging you in?