

LESSON 12 OUTLINE

HEBREWS 12:28-13:6

- I. Introduction/review
 - A. Important question: Why do you do what you do?
 - B. Review of the author's structure of his message
- II. Structure
 - A. 12:28-29 bridge verse connecting teaching with exhortations
 - B. 13:1 overarching command to brotherly love
 - 1. v. 2-6 series of commands w/ supportive incentives
- III. 12:28-29
 - A. Because we are receiving an unshakable kingdom
 - 1. Not yet the fullness, but its reception is certain- the King doesn't lie!
 - B. Natural response> gratitude> we have not come to Mt. Sinai but to Mt. Zion!
 - C. Overflow of gratitude> reverent service
 - D. Why? God is a consuming fire
 - 1. Reminder of 10:27-30
 - 2. Isaiah 26:11 Indeed, fire will devour Your enemies
- IV. 13:1-6 Expression of grateful love- reminder to ask, "Why do you do what you do?"
 - A. v. 1 brotherly love is to continue> introductory command
 - 1. Foundation= Jesus' teaching> those who follow Him are brothers and sisters> a new eternal spiritual family
 - 2. Author reinforces this in both instruction and exhortations
 - 3. He has commended them and desires that they endure to the end
 - B. v. 2 do not neglect hospitality to strangers
 - 1. Christian hospitality was done out of love for Jesus and the eternal family He established
 - 2. Jesus commends the faithful for feeding, clothing, welcoming the least of His brothers and sisters in Matthew 25:35
 - 3. It was a very important means of spreading the gospel
 - 4. Suffering saints were reminded to be hospitable despite loss of possessions
 - 5. Some have entertained angels> Abraham and Lot in Genesis 18-19
 - 6. Angels can also refer to people sent by God to bring blessing
 - C. v. 3A remember the prisoners as though in prison with them
 - 1. Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:36 also includes visiting those in prison
 - 2. Roman prisons were for housing those awaiting trial/execution- conditions were desperately bad
 - 3. Not simply recall but help materially and in prayer> as they would want to be helped
 - D. v. 3B those who are ill-treated
 - 1. 10:32-33- public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations
 - 2. They should help b/c they are in the body> all have suffered in some way in bodily experience, so they can sympathize and help in any way possible

- E. v. 4 marriage is to be honored and protected- expounding on 12:16-17
 - 1. Marriage is the union of man and woman to display the image of God
 - 2. God spoke through the prophets of Israel as an adulterous wife
 - 3. Jesus based teaching on Genesis> what God has united, man is not to separate
 - 4. In the NT, it is an earthly picture of the union of Christ and His bride
 - 5. Fornicators and adulterers will be judged> comprehensive description of misuse of sexuality>
 - 6. Reminder of great shaking mentioned above
 - 7. There is forgiveness for any sexual sin, but unrepentant immorality will not result in reception of the unshakable kingdom
- F. v. 5-6
 - 1. They are not to love money but people!
 - 2. Jesus taught- You cannot love God and money> contentment frees from greed and demonstrates faith in God, leading to fearlessness necessary for love and care of brothers and sisters
 - 3. 10:34 they have lost possessions, yet author exhorts grateful love BECAUSE Jesus has met the most pressing need of proximity to and intimacy w/ God
 - 4. 'So that'> the result is confident proclamation of His help> release from fear> proper attitude toward man.
- V. Again, ask the question, "Why do I do what I do?"
 - A. Temptation can be to act out of guilt or fear of God's disapproval or anger
 - B. The author wants the focus on our Savior and our response to be one of grateful love for Him and appreciation for being secured in His unshakable kingdom.

THINKING ABOUT HEBREWS 12:28-13:6

1. In 12:28-29, the author exhorts his audience to offer grateful service to God. What are they to be grateful for? How is this connected to the bigger picture he has taught about in the rest of the letter?
2. Read Romans 1:18-32. Describe the trajectory of wickedness delineated by Paul which results from dishonor of God and ingratitude toward Him. How does gratitude prevent this downward spiral? How can it also prevent legalistic moralism?
3. How can you be certain, in the midst of earthly suffering and trials, that the kingdom you are receiving in part now (the already) will be fully yours in the future (the not yet)? What is the requirement for receiving it?
4. What are some ways you can think of in which we as sisters can demonstrate brotherly/sisterly love? Let your mind explore and consider ideas that are new to you.
5. How do you define hospitality? Describe some ways you have been hospitable or have enjoyed the hospitality of brothers and sisters. Do you enjoy practicing hospitality? If not, how can you allow the Holy Spirit to expand your capacity to exercise this Christian virtue?
6. Why did the author consider it so important for the community to remember (not just recall) those in prison? Do you think this exhortation might include visiting those in prison for crimes vs being persecuted? What are some ways we as sisters could encourage those in prison for their faith?
7. Why is the protection of marriage so central to biblical faith that the author speaks of making sure there is no immoral person in the community? As you observe our culture, what effects do you notice from the reversal of biblical morality? How do you see this affecting the church, both now and in the future?
8. List some ways in which you, perhaps inadvertently, love money. How does this affect your attitude and the way you live your life and your faith? What is the author's antidote to this and why do you think it is the answer? How is this connected to gratitude?

9. Read Palm 118 several times-

- a. First and last verses are the same. For what is the author grateful?

- b. Different words are used for the Hebrew word 'hesed' (lovingkindness, mercy, loyal love) which expresses both God's loyalty to His covenant and His love for His people along with a faithfulness to keep His promises. It is active, covenant love. How does this relate to the psalmist's confidence in the help he will receive from the LORD?

- c. How can this strengthen the gratitude these suffering Christians experience and express toward one another?

- d. What do you fear the most? How can gratitude for the unshakable kingdom and the unfailing help of God calm your fears and result in freedom to love others? Think of a specific situation you are experiencing for which gratitude is the antidote to fear.