

Hebrews 13:1-8

Week Twenty-one

Study written by Holli Worthington

Day 1



Heavenly Father, help me to not only read your word, but to understand it. And help me not only to understand it, but also to do what it says. And help me to do what it says in the power of your strength and depending on your help.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2- Hebrews 13:1-3

1. What is to characterize the community of believers according to verse 1?

-In light of the trials the Jewish Christians were facing why do you think the Hebrew's author needed to say *continue* or *keep on loving*?

For Discussion: How do you choose to love if you don't feel loving toward a fellow believer?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

- How did Jesus say we are to love one another?
- How will believers be recognizable to the world?
- If we do not love fellow believers, what does this mean?
- Why do we love?

John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 13:35 “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 John 4:7-8, 11 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love...Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

2. What is one way we are to show love according to verse 2?

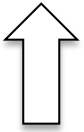
Scholar’s Note: “[Hospitality] was highly esteemed in the ancient world and was certainly very important for Christians. Accommodation at inns was expensive, and in any case inns had a bad reputation. But as Christian preachers traveled around, believers gave them lodging and so facilitated their mission. Without hospitality in Christian homes, the spread of the faith would have been much more difficult.”¹

For Discussion: In our day we do not usually come into contact with strangers passing through our town with no place to stay. What are ways we could show hospitality to “strangers”?

3. Verse 2 refers to Abraham and his nephew Lot both unknowingly accommodating messengers of God (Gen.18:1, 19:1). What is the Hebrew author's point?

4. What is another way we are to show love according to verse 3?

-How are we to identify with those who are imprisoned or mistreated?



Father, many of your children around the world are suffering in prison because they follow you. Would you strengthen their faith and help them to persevere in hope. Help them to know you love them and are with them. Please bring them home soon.



In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus talks about Judgment Day and how love for others is a distinguishing mark of those who are saved. He commends his children for feeding him, clothing him, caring for him and visiting him in prison. His children reply:

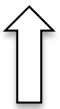
“Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?”

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

When we obey Jesus' command to love others, it is as if we are doing it to him! And who of us would not want to serve Jesus in any way we could if we saw him in the flesh?

- ❖ Jesus says to love one another the way he loves us. What is Jesus love for his children like?

- ❖ What is your biggest hindrance in loving others? Spend some time in prayer about this.



Father, help me be willing to die to myself in order to love others.

Day 3- Hebrews 13:4

As a community of believers, the church is to be characterized by love for one another as we saw in verses 1-3. Verses 4-5 show us that the community of believers should also be marked by holiness.

5. How are we to look at marriage according to verse 4?

For Discussion: What are all the ways marriage is not honored in our world?

6. How are you to act in marriage according to verse 4?

7. How seriously does God take a lifestyle of sexual impurity according to verse 4?

Scholar's Note: Sexual immorality- all forms of sexual activity outside of marriage.

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

- What does the understanding that marriage is a picture of Jesus and his church say about...

how spouses should love and serve each other?

committing to marriage instead of living together?

the witness of covenantal marriage to unbelievers?

Ephesians 5:31-32 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."

Picture and Ponder: "One of the greatest witnesses in our age will be Christian couples who faithfully meet the struggles of marriage with the grace and power of God. Along with that is the astonishing witness, as our world now judges it, of Christian singles who keep the marriage bed pure through self-control and godly restraint."²



As our world honors marriage less and less, Christ followers who esteem marriage will stand out more and more. Young people who choose to marry instead of living together will look foolish to their peers and married men and women who stay together and work through struggles instead of calling it quits will seem irrational to the world. Yet here in Hebrews, God calls us to be known as people who honor marriage. This brings glory to him.

- ❖ We have all failed to honor marriage in various ways and degrees. Through Jesus we come to the throne of grace and receive mercy and grace to help. Thank God for the forgiveness you have in Jesus. Seek to honor your marriage through faith and not in your own strength.
- ❖ How can you honor your marriage this week?
- ❖ Verse 4 says, marriage should be honored by *all*, so if you are not married how can you honor marriage?

Day 4- Hebrews 13:5-6

8. Verse 5 gives us the second example of holiness that believers should be known by. What two things are contrasted in verse 5?
9. How would you describe contentment what contentment should or does look like in your life?

-Look up the definition of contentment.

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-What comes from loving money?

1 Timothy 6:6-10 “⁶ Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be

content.⁹ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”(NLT)

10. What reason do we have for being content according to verse 5?

11. Because the Lord will never leave us, what can we know for sure according to verse 6?

-What does this have to do with contentment and being free from the love of money?

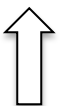


Contentment is another characteristic (like sexual purity and honoring marriage) that will make believers stand out in this world. Loving money is a trademark of this world and is nothing less than idolatry (Col. 3:5). In 1 Timothy 6:17 Paul tells us not to put our hope on “*the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy*”. We show our love for money by hoarding it or by spending it indulgently. Both ways show that our hope is not in God.

- ❖ The love of money is a temptation for those with money and for those without money. What are some signs that might indicate you love money?

- ❖ What practices can help free you from the love of money or keep you from the love of money?

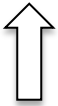
- ❖ How does contentment honor God?



Lord, you are my helper and you will never leave me! Help me to cling to this promise and find my security and contentment in you and not in money and what it can buy.

Day 5- Hebrews 13:7-8

12. What other help does the author remind us of in verse 7, as we strive to live lives marked by love and holiness?



Father I thank you for the people in my life who have taught me your word, and showed my your ways and have lived out lives of love and holiness.

For Discussion: Why is it important to have faithful examples of people who are a little further on in the journey than we are? Why is faith the thing we should imitate?

13. According to verse 8, what makes the truths of the Bible timeless why can we imitate the faith of people long dead or take instructions on what it looks like to live as Christ followers from someone who lived a couple thousand years ago in different culture than ours?

Picture and Ponder: This devotion from Streams in the Desert by L.B. Cowman, describes the encouragement and strength we can gain from the examples of those who have journeyed ahead of us through trials and hardships in this life and stayed faithful.

Life is a steep climb, and it does the heart good to have somebody “call back” and cheerily beckon us on up the high hill. We are all climbers together, and we must help one another. This mountain climbing is serious business, but glorious. It takes strength and steady step to find the summits. The outlook widens with the altitude. If anyone among us has found anything worthwhile, we ought to “call back.”

If you have gone a little way ahead of me, call back
’Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track;

And if, perchance, faith's light is dim, because the oil is low,
Your call will guide my lagging course as wearily I go.

Call back, and tell me that He went with you into the storm;
Call back, and say He kept you when the forest's roots were torn;
That, when the heavens thunder and the earthquake shook the hill,
He bore you up and held you where the very air was still.

Oh, friend, call back, and tell me for I cannot see your face,
They say it glows with triumph, and your feet bound in the race;
But there are mists between us and my spirit eyes are dim,
And I cannot see the glory, though I long for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you when your prayer was but a cry,
And if you'll say He saw you through the night's sin-darkened sky
If you have gone a little way ahead, oh, friend, call back
'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track.

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

² Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 7494-7495). Kindle Edition.