

## Better than Your Sacrifice

### Hebrews 13

This Semester, we're studying the book of Hebrews to better understand Who Jesus is and What He's done. What we will find is that Jesus is better than anything our world has to offer. In closing, the author calls all believers to offer a spiritual sacrifice of praising God and sharing the Gospel regardless of whatever suffering may come.

#### Read: Hebrews 13.12-16

#### Intro: Buzz & Daffodils (Video)

- **Idea** – Sometimes we just don't know how to react to something amazing!

#### The Truth is...

- We've all found ourselves frozen by excitement at the **end of something old** (school) or the **beginning of something new** (relationship) & we should feel the same level of excitement about our **relationship with Jesus Christ** at the end of Hebrews!

#### This Semester...

- **We're studying the book of Hebrews to better understand Who Jesus is and What He's done. Our world tells us we deserve "The Best" so we try to be "The Best" or we try to know "What's Best." But Hebrews tells us that no matter what anyone thinks, says, or does, Jesus is Better.**

#### This Morning...

- We're at the end of the book in **Chapter 13** where the author gives his audience some **final instructions** on **what to do in light** of Who Jesus is and What Jesus has done –
  - **We're called to offer a spiritual sacrifice of praising God and sharing the gospel, regardless of suffering**

#### Remember Context to understand Content

- **Passage:** We've seen how Jesus is better than idols, identities, heroes, failures, etc. The author highlights faith in ch11 & ends pointing out that the greatest hope is still ahead for all of us

#### Jesus' Sacrifice (13.9-12)

- **Read: Hebrews 13.9** – The author takes a dig at the Jewish sacrificial system by explaining it's better to be strengthened by grace than food
  - **80% of humanity** belongs to one of the big 4 religions – **Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism** – all of which seek to explain humanity's relationship with God
  - **All 4 recognize** that the relationship between God and humanity is broken, so **3 of the 4 claim** their followers must think, say, or do certain things to sort of fix the relationship
  - **But what do Christians believe?**
- **Read: Hebrews 13.10-12** – On the Day of Atonement, the priests would take the sin offering blood into the Holy of Holies, but they took the body outside the camp to be burned completely in order to fix the relationship between man & God
  - Jesus Christ became that offering **once for all!**
  - Only **Christianity believes God fixed the relationship Himself** to offer forgiveness as a gift
- Once we've accepted this incredible gift, what's next? **How do we react to something so amazing?**
  - In light of **Christ's perfect sacrifice**, the author calls Believers to their own **"spiritual sacrifices"** – **to suffer, praise, and share**

## Our Sacrifice (13.13-16)

- **Suffer (13-14)**
  - **Read: 13.13-14** – In following Christ, we will find ourselves outside the city because this isn't our home
    - **Ex: Girl discovering ice (Video)** – Standing with Christ can lead to unexpected pain
  - **Application:** Just like Jesus, we're going to face **rejection** – there's an increased pressure on Christians to back off certain beliefs & we're **called to stand firm in truth AND grace**
- **Praise (15)**
  - **Read: 13.15** – In following Christ, we will find ourselves with opportunities to praise God, in both joy & sorrow
    - **Ex: Showing Charlotte** – I've shown a picture of **Charlotte every week** this semester from week one to week now for two reasons. First, as previously stated, I have to compete with Instagramommies somehow. Second, I love this girl and find **joy in our relationship** whether it's by enjoying her **laugh** or by learning patience in the nights of never ending **scream-tears**
    - **Ex:** Kyle Cox gave a great talk on the prophet **Ezekiel**, who faced tragedy at the end of a life dedicated to preaching God's message – but **God used that tragedy to grab others' attention**, so when Ezekiel continued to praise God, they listened
  - **Application:** Just like Jesus, we're going to face **joy** and **sorrow** in life, & we're **called to praise God in all circumstances**
- **Share (16)**
  - **Read: 13.16** – In following Christ, we will find ourselves surrounded by **people in need** who we're **called to love** just as we love ourselves & care for **as if they were Jesus Himself**
    - **Ex: Flower Lady on Subway (Video)** – A moment of kindness that someone videoed on their phone for some strange reason – others on the subway were confused, but **YouTube knew exactly what to say**
    - What would happen if that was **typical Christian behavior?** How many more ears would hear the Gospel?
  - **Application:** Just like Jesus, we're going to encounter people who need **preaching**, who need **feeding**, who need **healing**, who need **listening**, who need **weeping** & we're **called to meet those needs**

## Prayer

- **How are you called to sacrifice this summer?**

[9] Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. [10] We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. [11] For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. [12] So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. [13] Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. [14] For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. [15] Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. [16] Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

(Hebrews 13:9-16 ESV)