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CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS (PT 2)

Hebrews 13:7-25

Intro: How Do We Stay on Track in the Wilderness of Life?

I. You Need a Guide: Remember Your Leaders (v.7, 17-18)

- A. Church leaders are teachers
 - o “leaders” here probably refers to elders/pastors because they “spoke to you the word of God” (v.7a)
 - o Sitting under good teaching is the key to staying on track!
- B. Church leaders are examples
 - o “imitate their way of life” (v.7b)
 - o Church leaders aren’t perfect, but they can be encouraging examples
- C. Church Leaders are shepherds
 - o “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls” (v.17)
 - o Respect for church leaders is at an all-time low. Why do you think that is?

II. You Need to Watch Out for Danger: Beware of False Teachers (v.9)

- A. False teachers are a real danger
 - o “Do not be led away...” (v.9) should be a sober warning
 - o There’s a long history of false teachers among God’s people who’ve ravaged the flock
 - o False teachers are not “out there” but “in here”
 - o “After my departure, fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock” (Acts 20:29)
- B. What kind of false teaching?
 - o “diverse and strange teaching” can refer to any doctrine out of accord with the Bible, but especially refers to new teachings. Why are people so enamored with the new?



- o "it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace not by foods"
 - Likely referring to OT sacrificial system where priests would eat the food on the altar
 - The audience is being tempted to return to the ways of the old covenant
 - Key point: external rituals, special restrictions, are not the way to God!
 - "Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, not better off if we do" (1 Cor 8:8)

III. You Need a Glorious Goal: Look to Jesus (v.8, 10-16)

A. Unlike the false teachers, Jesus never changes (v.8)

- o "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever"
- o These are eternal divine attributes: "who is and who was and who is to come" (Rev 1:8)
- o If you anchor yourself to Jesus, you will not be tossed around by the latest teachings

B. Unlike the false teachers, Jesus brings us real "food" for our souls

- o The "food" of Jesus is different than that of the OT system (v.10)
 - o "We have an altar from which those who serve at the tent have no right to eat"
 - o Those committed to OT system are left only with literal animals on the altar, not the real, sufficient sacrifice of Jesus
- o In the OT, animal sacrifices were taken outside the camp and burned (v.11)
 - To be "inside" the camp was to be in God's gracious presence
 - To be "outside" the camp was to be rejected and condemned by God
 - Animal sacrifices were put outside as a picture of God's judgment on sin
- o In the same way, Jesus was crucified outside the camp (v.12)
 - Jesus bore our sins and thus was rejected and condemned by God
 - For our sake, Jesus was treated as a sinner outside the camp
 - "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt 27:46)

C. Implications of Following Jesus Outside the Camp

- o Be ready to suffer with him
 - "Let us . . . bear the reproach he endured" (v. 13)



- We can do this because “we seek the city that is to come” (v.14)
- o Offer sacrifices to him
 - “sacrifices” of praise (v.15)
 - “sacrifices” of good works (v.16)



Discussion Groups

1. How does this passage help you rethink your view of church leaders? What are some practical next steps you can take to be under their leadership?

2. What are some false teachings circulating in our world today? Why do you think most Christians are unconcerned about false teaching?

3. How are you encouraged today by Jesus enduring the rejection and judgment of God for you? What are some ways we can respond to that great gift?

