

Lesson 12

The Lord Who Equips

Hebrews 13:1-25

As we open to Hebrews 13, ask the Lord to prepare your heart to hear the exhortations found in this chapter as He desires you to hear them.

Read through all of Hebrews 13.

Equipped to Do His Will

1. Who equips us “to do His will” according to Hebrews 13:20-21?
2. Look back to Hebrews 8:10, where does the Lord put His laws?

“Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 13:20-21

3. Read John 14:15-17. Why do we keep God’s commands? Who helps us?
4. Under the Old Covenant, God gave the Israelites a list of laws and commandments. How does Jesus summarize the commandments in Matthew 22:34-40?

At first, it may seem that Hebrews 13 is a list of *dos* and *don'ts*, but the author of Hebrews has made it clear that legalism – ceremonies and works to gain the favor of God – has no place in the lives of believers. Instead, the exhortations in this chapter are intended to guide us in our response to the truths that we have learned throughout the letter to the Hebrews. In essence, they are practical pictures of how to love God and others. Under the New Covenant, we have access to God through Jesus Christ. He writes His laws on our hearts and puts the Holy Spirit within us to guide us into all truth (John 16:13). We will respond obediently in love for Him, and His commands will not be burdensome to us (1 John 5:3).

Equipped to Love Others

5. In Hebrews 13:1, the author encourages us to “let love of the brethren continue.” What do you learn about loving others in 1 John 4:18-5:3?

6. What does loving others look like in Philippians 2:1-7?

7. Who teaches us to love each other according to 1 Thessalonians 4:9?

8. Is there anyone in your life that you are struggling to love? Take some time to ask the Lord to teach you how to love that person.

9. What is the exhortation of Hebrews 13:2?

10. Read Genesis 18:1-19:1. (You can just skim 18:16-33.)
 - ❖ How does Abraham show hospitality?

 - ❖ How many men are there in Genesis 18:2?

 - ❖ How many of those men are angels according to Genesis 19:1? What is the other man called (Genesis 18:1)?

11. Abraham not only entertained angels, He entertained the Lord! What does Jesus say in Matthew 25:35-40?

12. What would you like to do for Jesus? Would you like to have rocked Him as an infant? Fed Him as a guest in your home? Drawn water from a well to quench His thirst? Ask Him for an opportunity to do just that for one of His children.

13. What is the exhortation of Hebrews 13:3? How does Romans 12:15 extend that exhortation?

Equipped to Love God

14. Honoring marriage and avoiding sexual sin is emphasized in Hebrews 13:4. How does sexual sin differ from other sin according to 1 Corinthians 6:15-20?

15. Many of us have been involved in sexual sin to some degree (and we're *all* guilty of sins we'd rather not have committed!), but what is our hope as believers in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11?

- ❖ Are you sure you've been washed and sanctified in Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God? If not, turn to Appendix I.
- ❖ In Christ, *all* our sins are forgiven. Is there any sin the Father is currently convicting you of for which you've not yet repented? If so, take time now to bring it under the blood of Christ and receive His forgiveness.

If you have already confessed a sin and received forgiveness, the Lord no longer holds it against you. If you're feeling guilty for something you've already confessed, it's not your Father that's convicting you. That's the enemy. I would suggest that you thank Your Lord – out loud – because that sin is already covered by the blood of Jesus.

16. How does the author relate the love of money to reliance on God in Hebrews 13:5-6?

17. How does Paul explain his attitude about provisions and circumstances in Philippians 4:11-13? What does he assure the Philippians of in 4:19?

18. We are all tempted to find safety and security in things other than the provision of God. Ask the Lord if there is anything in your life that you are relying on in place of Him. If He brings something to mind, tell Him you are sorry and ask Him to meet that need.

19. What does Hebrews 13:7 encourage us to do?

20. Who is someone that has spoken the word of God to you? How are you encouraged by their faith? How can you imitate it in your own life? (Remember, we're not called to become someone else – just to learn from their example!)
21. What does the author caution us against in Hebrews 13:9a? How does that relate to Hebrews 13:8?

Focus on Hebrews 13:9-16. In verses 10-13, the author compares Jesus to the sacrifice under the Jewish Law on the Day of Atonement. Those animals were burned outside the camp, and “Jesus also suffered outside the gate” (Hebrews 9:12), which is a reference to the fact that Jesus was crucified outside the walls of Jerusalem.

22. From Hebrews 13:9, by what are our hearts strengthened?
23. The author reminded the Hebrew people that their hearts were not strengthened by food, which was probably a reference to many of the dietary laws of the Jewish culture. How does that relate to Colossians 2:16-23?
24. From Hebrews 13:12, why did Jesus suffer?
25. Most of us are not tempted to pursue our own righteousness by following the regulations of the Jewish Law, but we might be doing certain things in attempt to somehow earn God's love or favor. Ask the Lord to show you this week if you are doing anything with that attitude. (He may not want you to stop doing whatever it is; He may just want to adjust your thinking about it!)
26. What does the author remind us to do in Hebrews 13:13-14? How do you think that relates to Jesus' words in John 17:14-17?

27. What should be our response to Christ's work on our behalf (Hebrews 13:15-16)?

A Few Final Exhortations

28. What does the author instruct in Hebrews 13:17? How does that relate to Romans 13:1?

- ❖ The author is most likely referring especially to the spiritual leaders in place over the church. How can we bring joy to those leaders according to Philippians 1:3-5 and 3 John 1:4?

29. What does the author ask of the audience in Hebrews 13:18?

- ❖ What does Galatians 6:2 teach? Who will help us carry those burdens (Matthew 11:28-30)?
- ❖ Ask the Lord if there is anyone He would like you to be praying for. If He brings someone to mind, ask Him how you can pray for that person.
- ❖ Sometimes it's easier to pray for others than to humbly ask others to pray for us. What do you need help praying for or about? Ask a fellow believer to pray for or with you. If you can't think of anyone to share with, ask the Lord for believing friends with whom you can pray. (You may even be able to begin praying with people in your small group if you aren't already!)

30. Much of Hebrews 13:22-25 are a personal closing to the original audience of the letter. How does the author close his letter in Hebrews 13:25?

Grace really is the whole big deal. Under the Old Covenant, the Law guided people into holy living. Rituals and blood sacrifices allowed limited access to a Holy God. Under the New Covenant, our Great High Priest sacrificed Himself that we might live in perfect communion with God – not because of our works but because of His. The Law *demand*s holiness: “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy” (Leviticus 19:1). Grace *declares* holiness: the Holy Son of God has suffered and died “that He might sanctify the people through His own blood” (Hebrews 13:12). Through Jesus' torn flesh, He opens the way into the Holy of Holies, that we might come boldly and rejoicing into the Presence of God.

Prepare for Life Question:

31. Before you close the book of Hebrews, take some time to think back over the ways the Lord has revealed Himself and His truth to you. What do you want to remember? How has your relationship with the Lord grown and changed through your time in His Word? How is He calling you to respond in light of His truth?

Lecture Notes:
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