

Who is Jesus? | to know him is to love him

My Helper

Hebrews 13:1-16

November 26, 2017

Review: Did last week's image of Jesus as "forerunner" help you in running the race?

Stewardship Emphasis for November: Helper: What are the stewardship implications of making sacrifices to help people in need?

Introduction: "Do you love me?" It's the question at the heart of life. Jesus asked it. For Jesus the story of our lives is the story of our loves. So what do we love most? And what is most worthy of our love? Those who first knew him and saw him risen from the dead became convinced that the answer must be: Jesus. They knew how much he loved them, and they loved him. Their lives and their world were transformed by that love. But how can we love him today? How can our hearts be awakened and reshaped by love for him? We begin by getting to know him. To know him is to love him. The New Testament epistle to the Hebrews has been called "the fifth gospel" because it presents rich images of Jesus not on earth but in his ongoing heavenly ministry. These images not only tell us what he does but – who he is. It's good news that gives us great hope and rekindles our affections for so great a Savior.

This week we study many final exhortations of the writer of Hebrews and the affirmation that Jesus is our helper in all of life.

Pray: LORD, Jesus, we pray that we may know more clearly that you will never leave us or forsake us. Amen.

Read: Hebrews 13:1-16

Discussion:

1. Have you ever entertained strangers? How did this happen?
2. How is it possible to be free from the love of money and to be content with what you have, in the midst of a culture of discontent?
3. Reflect on verse 6 for its meaning to you personally.
Is this a prescription for leading a great life in God's eyes?
4. How do the exhortations of verses 1-16 help us against becoming complacent in our faith?
5. What is your understanding of the references to "city" in verses 11-14?
6. How is praise a sacrifice to God?

Note that God is pleased with the sacrifice of sharing with others. How do you do that?

Application: Identify at least one of the exhortations found in our text and pay attention to how you live into following it this week.

Pray: Lord, we offer our praise of gratitude for the many images of Jesus in the heavenly realm provided by Hebrews – we hope to know him in order to love him. Amen