

Sermon: Our Commitment to Gather.
Series: *Gathering and Scattering*

Scripture: Hebrews 13:5-17.
Date: September 1, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Look at verse 5 together. This is a quote from Deuteronomy 31: 6 and 8. How does this promise from God free you personally from fear of man (v.6)? How might freedom from fear of man allow you to relate to the church and its leaders in a more trusting and joyful way?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Compare Hebrews 13:13 and 11:26. In what way did Moses “bear the reproach of Christ?” What did he have to give up in order to follow God? Have you identified things that you need to give up in order to join Christ on the journey to the “city that is to come” (v.14)?

b) To leave the camp and join Christ (v13) is to leave behind tribalism. Can you identify any tribalism in your life (political, racial, cultural, generational)? Is there a way that God has been nudging you to open yourself up to those in the church who aren’t like you?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Look closely again at verses 10-13. Why did Jesus suffer and die “outside the gate” (the city)? How does this show his identification with us?

b) Red v.12. What is our sanctification based upon? What does it mean that we have been sanctified? Why is understanding verse 12 essential to obeying verse 13? Think about how what Jesus has done precedes what we do.

APPLICATION

a) To commit to Christ is to commit to godly church leaders. How would you assess your relationship to your church leaders? Are you able to obey (trust) and submit (support) them? Do you allow them to keep watch over your soul? Why or why not?

b) Consider verse 17 together. Do you bring joy or groaning to your church leaders? How might you honor your church leaders this week?

c) How does passage make an implied case for church membership (think about all we are asked to do in verses 15-17)? Are you a church member? If not, why not?

PRAYER

- Thank God for never leaving you or forsaking you.
- Confess ways that you have failed to bear the reproach of Christ, and have clung to earthly treasure.
- Thank Jesus for sanctifying you by his blood, not your works.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to bring joy and not groaning to your church leaders.