

Without The Gate

Hebrews 13:12-16

FOCAL Read Responsively Hebrews 13:12-16

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. (13) Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. (14) For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. (15) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name. (16) But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

This week we will be "In Revival" at a wonderful Church. What is "revival"? When we say, "We're going to be in revival", what are we talking about? In short, what are our goals for this week?

The Bible defines "revival" or the word "revive" as "to cause to live" or "to bring to life that which was dead". The first use of the word is in reference to **Jacob**. When word was brought back to him that his son **Joseph** had died, his heart died within him. He entered into deep depression. It was only later when **Jacob found out that Joseph was alive and in Egypt** that the Bible says **(Genesis 45:27) ... the spirit of Jacob their father revived**. Oh, my son was dead, but now, **EVEN NOW**, he lives. The next instance of revival mentioned is when **Samson, the servant of God kills a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass**. At the end of this supernatural battle - for the Bible says that the **Spirit of the Lord** gave him the power - Samson falls into a faint for lack of water. In that place of death and fainting Sampson cried out to God and the Bible says **(Judges**



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15:19) .. God cleaved a hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water therefrom; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived.

Where death was, God gave life. Where raging thirst was, God gave water. God alone revives. He revives the human spirit, He gives life to the dead and dying. As we enter Revival this week I beg you to pray these words with me unto the Father of Light:

Psalms 85:6-7 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? (7) Show us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.

We are praying that God will revive each of our hearts, that He will light a fire in us. We are praying that God will set each one of us on fire to serve Him with increased vigor. We may not, like Samson, be called to slay Philistines, but we are called to slay unbelief. Our prayer is that God will lead many unbelievers this way so they may truly be saved by faith in Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that God will revive apathetic or downcast spirits - that we will all remember that God has never changed, and that God's people are *saved to walk in victory*. Our prayer is that workers will be raised up for the Kingdom of God. **Billy Sunday** truthfully said that **attending Church does not make you any more a Christian than does sitting in a garage makes you a car**. Christ saves believers so they can lead unbelievers to become believers. We are saved by faith in Christ - but once saved, we are called to go *without the gate* to serve God. Let's look at our focal text:

1. Revival Serves To Raise The Dead

This week during revival you will hear much about the *Cross of Christ*. Why preach this if you are already saved? Our text tells us:

FOCAL Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore **Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**

This is the *premier teaching* of the Scripture, that Jesus Christ had to die *for your sins and for mine*. This is the cornerstone of our faith, that Jesus Christ **suffered without the gate** so that He could redeem unto Himself a people by God's Grace!

Look at the phrase "**without the gate**". In ancient times all cities of any size were walled, with large gates that were guarded at night. This was because thieves wandered without fear of retribution during the night. Those who were without the gate were *lawless*, or subject to the terror of the *lawless*. Other things were without the gate.

The *leper*, the person afflicted with that terrible cancerous skin disease, was cast out of the city.

From place to place the leper wandered, lonely, undone. If the leper had a wife or a husband prior to this terrible disease, they lost this companion. It did not matter if the spouse wanted to stay with the leper or not. Leprosy is a

terribly contagious thing, so terrible that the Law of God ordered that the leper be cast from the city. Leprosy was, in fact, an earthly illustration of God's view of sin. We often think little of sin, but God regards sin as leprous, terrible, something not allowed in His Heaven. Those who are stained by sin, afflicted by it's curse, are not allowed inside the Gate of Heaven. No, dear ones, leprosy is not allowed in the gate of the city, nor is sin allowed in the Gate of Heaven. Those cursed with this terror is cast without the gate. He or she loses all possessions, all loved ones, all comforts, all pride.

The leper has wandered from place to place. Over his face is a veil, covering the white deadish skin. When he talked to others his words were "unclean, unclean". The leper is a perfect Biblical example of the sinner in the eyes of God.

If you are a Christian, there was a day in your life where God the Holy Spirit *convicted* you of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (**John 16:8**). Like Sampson of old the Holy Spirit slew you, killed you under the preaching of the Word. You heard that you were a sinner (**Romans 3:23**), **far from the glory of God**. You heard the preacher talk about hellfire, talk about the sureness of judgment. You heard God speak about the **rich man in hell**, a man who rejected salvation until death seized him. You heard **Jesus preach (Luke 16:23) ... "in hell {the rich man} lifted up his eyes, being in torments"**, and realized that if death came in the next moment that you would share a space right next to that unfortunate man.

You were a leper *outside the gate of the city of God*. Your friends were as dead as you were - they were no help. Lepers cannot help lepers, and the well, the healthy ran from you.

Then you looked, leper, and needing a friend you saw a Man dying on a hill called Calvary. The living would not be with you, you are excluded from the City of God, but you see that Man dying - surely He could be your friend. And He is. Beloved, the Scripture says:

FOCAL Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore **Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**

This is no mere Man on that Cross - it is God Incarnate come to die for you. Could it be that Jesus Christ died for you? He said it, didn't He? If you will enter into that Great City of God, you must *first be alive*. Jesus said to the rich and satisfied:

John 6:27 Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Jesus alone has the solution, Jesus alone **suffered without the gate**. He died for you - no others did! Why was His payment of Blood satisfactory to God when no

other payment would do? Because **Him hath God the Father sealed**. He alone possesses the authority. God the Son *lived the Law of God perfectly*. Jesus said:

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Jesus fulfilled the Law of God in His life *before He went outside the gate*. He is the **Lamb of God without spot or blemish**. God taught us that sin had to be paid for - that sin *that which offends an infinite and immortal God*. Adam sinned against God when he ate of the forbidden fruit, and since that day all mankind has been born *physically alive but spiritually dead*.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

You are spiritually dead without Christ. You are in the tunnel of physical life, but no light is at the end of the tunnel. If Jesus did not die for your sins *and rise again for your justification* then you have no hope. Those who are dead cannot resurrect themselves - the spiritually dead cannot make themselves alive. They must be revived by God.

Has **Jesus went outside the gate for you?**

The Bible teaches us that:

John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world, that he

gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

God gave Jesus to us so that **He could go outside the gate for us**. *The Blood of Jesus Christ shed on Calvary is the only payment that God will accept for your sins. Heaven is a prepared place for the children of God.* Unless you have received the **adoption of sons**, as the Scripture says:

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

The you are still a leper in the eyes of God. He laid down His life for you, and you, and you. Jesus Christ did not come to this earth to be a *mere good example*, though He is a good example for us. No better example could be found than our Savior. He is the pattern of God revealed to us in human flesh. But He did not come to be an

example. No, the Scripture says:

FOCAL Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore **Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**

or in His words:

John 10:10-11 ... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (11) I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Jesus came to give His life for you. It is faith in His payment of Blood that gives you eternal life. If you have been saved by faith in Christ, please pray with me that any unbeliever in our midst be revived. God wants to give all eternal life, yet many will hear this message and reject it. The rejector will die in his or her sins, die without their name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and hellfire will be their final eternal place-mark. O, dear friends, do not take the message of the Gospel lightly! Do not believe that you will have a *second chance* to repent after physical death. No, today is the day of salvation. Remember the story of **Naaman the leper**. This man begged **Elisha** for healing, so Elisha told him to go to the **Jordan** and bathe seven times. Naaman wanted to argue with God, wanted to be saved his own way, and refused to bathe in the Jordan at first. It was only after his servants told him **(2 Kings 5:13) "if the**

prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?" As the servant of the Living God I tell you today, unless you use the method He has set before you, you will yet be unclean. Surrender your lives to Jesus Christ, believe that He died for you and rose again, call upon the Name of the Lord and you shall be saved!

2. Revival Serves To Rouse The Righteous

We read further in our context:

FOCAL Hebrews 13:13-14 **Let us go forth therefore unto him {Jesus} without the camp, bearing his reproach.** (14) **For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.**

During this revival our prayer is that every believer be *set on fire to serve God*. God's command to us is that we **go forth unto Jesus without the camp, bearing His reproach**. We are told **Let US go forth**. Listen Believers, Hell is real. The people that you love that are not saved are *damned where they are*. If God Who is love has saved you, then go and tell others about this same great love. You may not have tomorrow to tell a family member, a friend, a co-worker about Christ.

“But Pastor, I fear rejection.” Your fear is valid, for Jesus *promised rejection* to those who loved Him. We teach a truth that is hated by the world. It was hated on the day that Jesus first presented it, and will be hated until eternity come. Jesus told us:

John 15:18-20 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (20) Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

When you **go without the camp you will bear His reproach**. No matter! You carry a message of New Birth, a message of Hope, a message of Love from God. You are the King's Ambassadors. It is not your message, but His. It is no *temporal* message from a mortal being, but an *Immortal Message from the Great I AM*. Carry that message with pride in Him Who died for you and rose again.

If you are saved you know the scope of God's power. He that saved you will surely save others – but they must be told, they must be shown. It has been my experience that *the sick do not want to be told that they are sick*. If a man has incurable cancer – and I have seen this many times – he will despise the message of the doctor even though that message be truthful. People may not like the message that we bring – we live in a day where “sin” is an outmoded concept – but the message is truthful nonetheless. We must go forth unto Him without the

camp.

FOCAL Hebrews 13:13-14 **Let us go forth therefore unto him {Jesus} without the camp, bearing his reproach.**

When the military goes to battle the *standard bearer* always goes before the troops. When the firing and fighting begins the warriors watch the enemy and chase the colors. They follow the colors, the standard, the flag no matter what. We are in a battle for men's souls. We do not shed man's blood, but we point to the *shed Blood of Christ* telling others what He has done. We follow the colors, the Cross of Calvary. We tell of the resurrected Christ Who has promised all who believe in Him eternal life.

FOCAL Hebrews 13:14 **For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.**

On this earth we have **no continuing city**. We **seek the City of God which is to come**. We seek to bring converts to this City, one by one, as people come to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. We do not focus on our present size, the magnitude of our earthly buildings, the size of our bank accounts, but we focus on telling others of Jesus. Jesus died for our sins, but He *rose again and now sits on the right hand of God the Father*. Because He rose again and has promised us eternal life, we know His promise to be true. We live for God because God lives for us – we must tell others about Jesus!

FOCAL Hebrews 13:15-16 **By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name. (16) But to do good and to communicate forget not:** for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

The Christian has been saved from the wrath of God. Our Lord Jesus cried from that Cross, “**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**” (Matthew 27:46). He was forsaken of God so that we could be accepted of God. Jesus prayed “**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**” (Luke 23:34). We chased riches rather than the righteousness of God while the Son prayed that our eyes would be opened. While we hung in guilt, sinners seeking forgiveness, He said to the repentant “**To day shalt thou be with me in paradise**” (Luke 23:43). The Son of God said “**I thirst**” (John 19:28), so that we who believe would never thirst. The thirst of hell will never be ours – He has given us Living Water. Jesus took all of our judgment on Himself and concluded, “**It is finished**” (John 19:30). No other coin will buy our way into Heaven but the coin of His Blood.

Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.
Oh Believer, how great is our salvation! Praise Him,
Believer – Love Him for what He has done:

**I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.**

**O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
Is my Savior’s love for me! ¹**

Praise Him, but do not forget **to do good and to communicate**. Tell others about this Great Salvation. Lead others to Church, warning of impending judgment. May God touch your hearts with these words.

¹ Words by Charles H. Gabriel, 1905, *My Savior's Love*