

Matchless part 32

Hebrews 13:7-17

The Title Of The Message: “Meeting Jesus”

The Key Word: Remember

The Thought: If we are going to meet Jesus we must remember Him, Seek Him, and Praise Him.

The Breakdown:

Verses 7-9 Remembering Jesus

Verses 10-14 Seeking Jesus

Verses 15-17 Praising Jesus

Verses 7-9 Remember Jesus

Hebrews 13:7 NKJV - Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Remember... We have just come off of verses 1-6, where Paul said Let brotherly love continue, by practicing hospitality with those in the church we really don't know, by remembering those who were imprisoned for their faith, by honoring marriage, by being content with what we have, by being confident that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us, by boldly proclaiming that the Lord is our helper, by having no need to fear, because what man can do to us! And so he opens verse 7 with remember, this is appropriate because we forget! How many times have you been reading the Bible only to immediately forget what you

have read? Or how many times have you remembered to read your bible? How many times have we forgotten the sermon on a Sunday or a Wednesday, right after we walk out the door? Or how many times have you forgotten to put into practice what the Bible has taught you? I mean we walk from one room into another and forget why we were going there in the first place! We are forgetful people and need to be reminded often of these things.

Remember those... Paul says remember those who rule over you, this word **“Rule”** is not the Greek word **“Arche”** meaning **“rule, power or principality”** that we often see with those who are over kingdoms and states or are judges, this word instead is the Greek word **“Hegeomai”** which **signifies to lead, then to consider**, it is **translated as “Accounting, Account or Esteem”** some pastors get it in their heads that they are rulers, CEO’s or are like Governors we are not!

Mark 10:42–45 (NKJV) 42 ...“You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Pastors are shepherds who lead, and we can only lead those who are willing to follow, it our responsibility to make sure that they are following Jesus and not us as we lead, we are not here to glorify ourselves but to glorify the Lord, we lead because the sheep have a desire and a need to follow Jesus. Jesus in **John 21:15-18** left Peter instructions, but these instructions are to be applied to all who would answer the call to shepherd His flock, to take the responsibility of leading His church, by feeding the sheep and tending to the lambs, we seek to keep the sheep out of trouble by applying the word, and then when they do not listen allow the Lord to break them so that when we minister to them they won’t stray again, we feed them the bread of the

word, and lead them to the still waters of the Spirit and teach them how to rest in the Lord, by pursuing peace and righteousness, this allows the sheep to beget more sheep.

Who have spoken the word of God to you... Again notice the character of godly pastors they teach the word and their conduct is something worth imitating, when Paul says “who’s faith follow” I thought that’s a weird way to put something, but looking at the word **“Follow”** I found that it is the Greek word **“Mimeomai”** and it means **“Mimic or Actor,”** we get our **English word “Mime”** from it, it is always translated as **“Imitate or Follow”** So what he is saying is who’s faith you are to imitate.

It was Paul who said imitate me for I imitate Christ, **1 Corinthians 11:1**, the pastor is called to live in the same way.

Pastors are to imitate Christ, not the world, and we are to be good examples for the congregation, not make excuses or room for our failures and the congregation is to follow that example. Paul said this in 2 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 3:7–9 (NKJV) 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, 9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

Even though Paul tells of his struggles with sin, in the book of Romans, he made no excuses for it, and left no room for it, and instead sought to be the best example he could be, by the power of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:4 (NKJV) And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...

And John encourages us to imitate what is good...

3 John 11 (NKJV) Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

And Paul gave Timothy this advice because he knew that pastors affect the the church and their lives...

1 Timothy 4:16 (NKJV) Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Hebrews 13:8 NKJV - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Jesus Christ is the same... Notice now that Paul says Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. This is His unchanging nature, this is what theologians call immutability, the inference here is impossible to ignore only God has an unchanging nature, and since Jesus is unchanging, then that means He's God, because that character belongs to God and God alone. Pastors who imitate Christ and those who imitate good pastors find comfort in this fact, and that means pastors who are imitating Jesus, are on solid ground not shifting sand.

Hebrews 13:9 NKJV - Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Do not be carried... Since we follow Jesus and He is unchangeable then we are not to go after changing doctrine, there are plenty of people stuck in the doctrinal duties of the law, you can't eat pork, or shellfish, you have to worship on Saturday, Paul is speaking of these things because these people were seeking to go back to those things, the law and all that was required to keep it, there are people today who are still

trying to do the same thing. And of course there are others who have gone off the deep end, with people falling down backwards all over the place, interrupting messages with supposed prophesy or speaking in tongues, gold dust falling out of the air, all these crazy things that make Christianity and the true operation of the gifts look foolish, cult like and crazy! An Unchangeable God means we can have our hearts established by grace rather than these things that only distract and change all the time.

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Verses 10-14 Seeking Jesus

Hebrews 13:10-11 NKJV - We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 NKJV - For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

We have an altar... The Jews must have been talking or trying to reason with these believers who were once in Judaism, they may have been arguing saying you guys don't even have an altar and we do! But Paul says on the contrary we do have an altar and those priest who serve in the tabernacle have no right to eat of it, that is to partake of it, just like those bodies that were sacrificed on the altar were taken outside the camp so our altar is out side the camp and that's because our altar is the cross and its outside the camp.

1 Corinthians 1:18–24 (NKJV) 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it

pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (NKJV) 1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Hebrews 13:12-14 NKJV - Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 NKJV - Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14 NKJV - For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

Therefore... Paul says therefore meaning since we have an altar, we know that Jesus was the sacrifice for our sin, He shed His blood outside the gate so that we could be sanctified, and forgiven, but notice it's outside the gate, outside the camp, Jesus went outside the camp of Judaism and established a new system, a new way of doing things, leaving the old behind, but outside the camp is where Jesus suffered reproach, and He was rejected by Judaism, all good Jewish men new that anything outside the camp was unclean, yet this where Jesus establishes the New Covenant, and since He is outside the camp we must go to Him, I want you to remember that outside the camp is where He was crucified, it was very public, everyone was able to see Him, when we come to Christ outside the camp, it too will be public, and everyone should see us, and as we very publicly proclaim our love for Him and He for us, we also like Him will suffer the reproach of friends and family,

and we suddenly find that we have no continuing city, that is we find that we have no place that belongs to us in the world, and the world wants nothing to do with us, so like those who have gone before us we look for kingdom who's foundations are not built with hands.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

“There is no being a Christian without being shut out of the world's camp.” -Charles Spurgeon

But we seek the one to come... With everything that is going on in the world today, we should make it our top priority to do just as Paul says to seek the One to come, because He is coming soon.

Proverbs 8:17 (NKJV) I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

In all actuality there is no prophecy that needs to be fulfilled that keeps Him from coming, the things we are experiencing now are the labor pains as they get harder and herder and come sooner and sooner, we know that He is about to come for His church, so He may come at any time. The question is will you be ready to go or will you be left behind?

Luke 21:29–31 (NKJV) 29 Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

Verses 15-17 Praising Jesus

Hebrews 13:15 NKJV - Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Therefore... Speaking of the fact that we have come to Christ outside the camp, and now we fellowship with the Lord by His grace, we are to continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, since we no longer need to bring animals as sacrifices, we bring the sacrifice of praise to the Lord, as we give thanks to the Lord He considers it the fruit of our lips.

Considering that praising the Lord is the fruit of our lips I want to draw attention to the word offer, you see there's not much we can do when all we do is complain, complaining never fixes or provides a solution to anything but our offering of praise actually does, the word "**Offer**" has the idea of "**leading persons up to a higher place**" We by our sacrificial praise affects hearts and attitudes around us. In this church it causes love, hope and grace.

Hebrews 13:16 NKJV - But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

But do not forget... I like that he says do not forget to do good and to share, because he is saying don't let it all be about the praise of our lips but let it move into action by doing good and sharing, these are the sacrifices God is well pleased with.

Hebrews 13:17 NKJV - Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Obey those who rule... Earlier the instructions were to remember those who lead, but now the call is to obey, the word obey has the idea of agreeing with, the leader and then the call is to be submissive to their leading, the idea here is to yield to spiritual leadership. We may ask why? Why should I submit to a man, why should I be obedient? If the

pastor is obedient to the Lord and is seeking to imitate Christ should be enough but we are told its because they look out for your souls, this doesn't mean that your not responsible it just puts additional responsibility on the pastor, I don't know of any pastor worth his salt that isn't up at night or early morning concerned and praying for those marriages that are in trouble or for those who are struggling with sin or even big decisions that will affect the church. We must give an account for what you are doing to God, He has given the pastors responsibility to share the word and seek to minister to those who are making unbiblical fatal decisions, even if they don't agree with them.

Let them do so with joy... When the congregation cooperates, it is a joy for those God has made the pastor over the church, I can't tell you how many times my heart has been broken over people who just would not cooperate with the word of God, when the church cooperates with the pastor then it is not just a joy to the pastor but a benefit for the body of Christ, it is for our own sake that we should submit to and obey those who have been called and appointed by God to lead His church.

Application:

- 1. Remember those who have been appointed by Jesus Christ to lead His church.**
- 2. Seek the Lord by going outside of the camp of religion and publicly proclaiming your love for Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Praise the Lord by submitting yourselves to the leading and the teaching of those who have been appointed to lead His church.**