

Let us Bear Christ's Reproach

Intro & review: *"Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple"* (Lk 14:27).

"The exhortation to leave the camp and to identify fully with Jesus introduces a distinctive understanding of discipleship" (William Lane).

1 – Bearing His Reproach: (Heb 13:13-14)

- A. Sharing in Christ's sufferings is part of being a disciple of Jesus (Phil 1:29, 3:7-10; Col 1:24).
- B. This is a call to accept the difficulties and the alienation that come with being associated with Jesus (John 17:14-16; 1 Jn 2:15-17).
- C. The question is: Are you prepared to identify with Jesus fully?
- D. Our motive for going outside the camp and bearing His reproach is the fact that there is an eternal city coming to which we belong (Heb 11:10, 26, 12:2; Rev 21:2).

2 – Confessing His Name: (Heb 13:15)

- A. Genuine praise is a natural product or "fruit" of the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17; Eph 5:18-20).
- B. Praising God is equated with confessing Christ's name before others.
- C. Confessing Christ to others is necessary for believers (Luke 12:8).

3 – Loving His People: (Heb 13:16)

- A. Believers offer not only the sacrifice of praise—but also deeds of love.
- B. It is a sign of health and spiritual maturity when people in the local church don't merely travel to hear someone speak and then live isolated lives (James 1:27; 1 Jn 3:17).

Concluding thoughts: