

Following Jesus outside the camp

Hebrews 13:11-14

5-10-15

1. Pastor Tom mentioned that being a follower of Jesus is very difficult at times. Can you think of a time where following Jesus cost you something significant? A relationship, money, an opportunity, etc. How did this event strengthen your relationship with Christ? What were your greatest fears during this time?
2. Hebrews 13:11 speaks of the Day of Atonement in which the High Priest offered a sacrifice for the sins of Israel to God. The sacrifice brought reconciliation between the people and God. (See also Leviticus 16:3-10, 20-34). The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement imagery. How is this so? How does Jesus both forgive us and cleanse us? Why is it so important that we not only have forgiveness but are also made clean by Christ? (See Heb. 5:8-10, 7:26-28, 9:12).
3. Great lengths were taken to atone for sin on the Day of Atonement. How does the imagery of this day influence your view of sin? (Read also Isaiah 59:2).
4. Being “outside the camp” was not a place of honor but a place of disgrace. To the original readers the message was clear: You must leave Judaism to follow Jesus Christ. We cannot hang onto old religion and just add Jesus to the mix. How are we tempted to hold onto old religion or following rules rather than following Jesus? Why is it often easier to follow rules instead of following Jesus?
5. Pastor Tom mentioned that in giving up the old way of the city of this world, we give up that which will not last, and we seek a city that will not fade. Read Revelation 21:1-22. How is the new city of Rev. 21 much greater than the old city of this world? How does the promise of a new city bring you hope in your pursuit of Christ?
6. Spend time in prayer with your group. Remember that at times following Jesus will cost you something. Pray for the courage and boldness to continue to follow Jesus even during these difficult situations knowing that your heavenly reward will be great.