Hebrews 13:1-25

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Hebrews 13:1–25*** (ESV)  
**1** Let brotherly love continue. **2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. **3** Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. **4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. **5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” **6** So we can confidently say, *“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”* **7** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. **9** Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. **10** We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. **11** For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. **12** So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. **13** Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. **14** For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. **15** Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. **16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. **17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. **18** Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. **19** I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

**20** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **21** equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**22** I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. **23** You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. **24** Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. **25** Grace be with all of you.

1. Why is brotherly love in the faith important at this specific time (based on prior context)?
2. Who do you think the “strangers” are from Heb 13:2? What are the implications for us today?
3. Where else in scripture has hospitality led to an interaction with a divine being?
4. What is the other equally plausible translation of “angel” and how might that change our understanding of Heb 13:2? For examples, look at Mark 1:2-4, Luke 7:24, Luke 9:51-52, James 2:25.
5. Consider “the body” spoken about in Heb. 13:3 as well as the call to reach out to those in prison. What “body” is he referring to here and what specific type of prisoner is the author calling for us to care for?
6. Heb 13:3 says “let marriage be held in honor among all.” Why? Is this just about maintaining sexual purity or is he speaking to the value of marriage itself? Consider 1 Tim 4:1-4 and 1 Cor 7:1. How do you reconcile this with Paul’s comments in 1 Cor 7:25-40?
7. Heb 13:5 admonishes us to keep our lives “free from the love of money” and to be content with what we have. How have you found this to be difficult in our world today? Why is this admonition linked to the next phrase “for he said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”? On the surface, although a true and encouraging statement, it seems somewhat unrelated. Look at Joshua 1:3-9, which is being quoted in this verse
8. In Heb. 13:6, the author references Psalm 118:6. Read Psalm 118 and discuss why this is such an ideal psalm for the author to reference. If you were a Messianic believer during this time, which verse of Psalm 118 would stick out to you?
9. Heb 13:7 is scary verse We are spiritual leaders. What is this saying to us?
10. Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever. But what is the context of this verse? What it the purpose of the stating this truth at this point?
11. Heb. 13:9, there is a reference to people who seem to be basing their spiritual identity upon their “devotion to foods” rather than upon God’s grace. What may be the context of this? Why does the food they are devoted to not benefit them?
12. Who does “those who serve the tent” refer to? How was it that they ate from the altar?
13. The author is probably referencing the Yom Kippurim sacrifices of Exodus 29:10-14 in Heb. 13:10-13. What two parallels is the author trying to make here?
14. Looking again at Heb 13:10, how is that we have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat? Why is this such a powerful statement with which to be closing this letter to the Hebrew believers?
15. Given the context of the Hebrew believers, what is the significance of Heb 13:13, “Therefore let us go to him outside the camp, and bear the reproach he endured”? Do we today sometimes still bear a similar kind of reproach from other believers?
16. If we still have an altar, then we must still make sacrifices! Since Yeshua was the one-time sacrifice for our
17. Look at Heb 13:2324. What hints do you find here re date and location?
18. We did it! Do you have any final thoughts from Hebrews that you’d like to share?