

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Yesterday/Today

Pastor Marcus

Feb 11, 2024

Reading: Hebrews 13:1-21

Prayer: Begin the study with a prayer, asking for God's presence and guidance as participants delve into His Word.

Icebreaker Is there something that you are very nostalgic about?

### I. Hebrews 13:1-2 Same Love

- Encourages brotherly love and affection, emphasizing living as one family.
- Calls for the extension of the same love to strangers, reflecting the concept of philoxenia (love of strangers).
- Promotes love in all circumstances, cautioning against the love of money that turns us inward.
- Questions: How can we practically show brotherly love and hospitality to those within and outside our community?
- What steps can we take to prioritize love over the pursuit of material wealth in our interactions with others?

### II. Hebrews 13:7-9 Same Teaching

- Calls for honoring teachers due to the unchanging truth of Jesus received from them.
- Warns against being led astray by teachings that deviate from this truth.
- Affirms the eternal truth of Jesus' suffering and death for our sake.
- Questions: How can we discern between teachings that align with the unchanging truth of Jesus and those that lead us astray?
- In what ways can we honor those who faithfully teach and uphold the unchanging message of Jesus in our lives?

### III. Hebrews 13:20-21 Same Strength

- The final benediction calls for God to equip, highlighting that the Christian life is God's work.
- Reminds us that the same God who secured salvation by raising Jesus from the dead is working His strength in believers.
- Martin Luther emphasizes divine revelation in Christian activities, urging reliance on God's strength.
- Questions: How can we surrender more fully to God's strength in our lives?
- In what areas do we struggle to rely on God's strength rather than our own efforts?

## Reflection/Application Questions

Reflect on a time when you encountered conflicting messages about your faith. How did you navigate discerning truth from falsehood, and what principles or practices helped you stay anchored in the unchanging truth of Jesus' sacrifice?

consider a time when you were the recipient of unexpected kindness from someone you didn't know. How did that experience impact your perspective on extending hospitality to others, especially those outside your usual social circles?

## Suggestion for Further Study:

1 Corinthians 13 How does 1 Corinthians example of love compare to that of Hebrews 13?  
How does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 support the idea of Jesus's teachings being unchanging?

## Closing prayer

Grant us the grace to love as you love, extending hospitality to both family and strangers.  
Strengthen our discernment to hold fast to the unchanging teachings of Jesus, guarding against deception. And empower us with your unwavering strength to live out your will in our lives.  
Amen