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Sermon Notes

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Let Us Go Outside, Where Jesus Is

Hebrews 13:11-14

The most courageous journeys in history:

Where someone left the comfort of a WWI foxhole to run amid a hail of machine-gun bullets to rescue a buddy who's injured and pinned down in a mud-filled artillery crater in No-Man's Land

Or the American soldiers who landed in the first-wave at Omaha Beach on D-Day and were pinned down by murderous German fire from the pillboxes and accurate artillery fire from pre-sighted locations... screwing up their courage and running the 50 yards across the terrifying beach

Or the courageous journey made in a tiny open boat over 800 miles of tumultuous ocean by Lord Shakleton after his Antarctic expedition was frozen in

Or the courageous journey made by men and women who crossed the rivers and mountains and deserts of our continent to settle the American West

All of these journeys took immense courage, when it would have been far safer and easier to stay secure at home and risk nothing

I. The Central Question: What Causes Radical Joyful Christian Suffering?

A. The Most Heroic and Vital Journey in the History of the World

O to see the dawn of the darkest day... **Christ on the Road to Calvary**
Tried by sinful men... torn and beaten, then... nailed to a cross of wood

B. The Second Most Heroic and Vital Journey... in our Text

“Let us go out to him, bearing the reproach He bore.”

The journey of Christians, a journey made by faith... from the comfort and ease of the city of security... through the gate outside to where Jesus is suffering.

It is BY THIS SECOND JOURNEY ALONE that the value of the first journey has been applied to lost people to the ends of the earth

Because Christians came to Jesus outside the camp and bore the reproach He bore, the gospel has advanced, step by bloody step

C. The Paradox of our Text in Context

1. We have been told that Jesus “will never leave us, nor forsake us”
2. But in this text, Jesus is beckoning to us to come to where He is
3. What does it mean that Jesus calls us to come to Him outside the City Gate, outside the camp?

D. Central Question of Both the Book of Hebrews AND Our Text

What is powerful enough to transform us and make us embrace radical Christian suffering joyfully? What can change us enough to make us do something CRAZY FOR JESUS? To take risks and venture outside where it is cold and dark and dangerous? To have a radical element to our Christian lives that can only be explained by faith? What can give us the courage and strength sufficient to VENTURE FORTH from safety and comfort and ease and luxury to where the NEED IS, where the PAIN and the SUFFERING is... and to do it because JESUS IS THERE?

E. What the World Needs MOST from the Christian Church Today

1. If the world sees Christians living roughly the same kind of life they do—a life of comfort and luxury and ease... watching the same movies, going to the same restaurants, buying the same clothes, driving the same cars, watching the same ball games... and if they ask us about the foundation of our lives and we say it is JESUS CHRIST... they will just shrug and say Jesus is your ticket to the show, education is my ticket, self-reliance is someone else’s ticket, Buddhism someone else’s ticket... but we’re all enjoying the same show
2. Once you’re at the show, the ticket gets tossed on the ground or in the trash... no one cares about the ticket once you’re watching the show

3. The world needs FAR MORE THAN THAT FROM US!! The world is not impressed by a faith that produces the same worldly success they are craving... worldly material success, worldly accolades, worldly Olympic gold medals, worldly PhDs, worldly houses and health and beauty and comfort... that's what they are all living for... if someone achieves those exact same things BY MEANS OF JESUS vs. BY MEANS OF something else, the world is NOT AT ALL IMPRESSED
4. The Book of Hebrews was designed to call Christians out of the comfortable hiding place to embrace joyful, faith-filled, hope-filled courageous suffering... the roots of that suffering can ONLY COME FROM HOPE IN FUTURE GLORY
5. So... what is the engine that transforms us and makes us radical, courageous, faith-filled sufferers for Jesus... risk-takers, people who live inexplicable lives
6. The whole purpose of this sermon is the same as the sermon that is the Book of Hebrews

Hebrews 13:22 Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.

F. Christian History is Made Up of those Who Made This Journey

G. Central Question Again:

1. How can ordinary, sinful, comfort-loving, security-seeking people like us be transformed to go outside the gate and join Jesus where He is suffering for the sins of the world? WHAT POWER IS STRONG ENOUGH TO MOVE US out of the comfort zone to serve Jesus and suffer with Him?
2. Answer: vivid faith in the FUTURE REWARD, which is CHRIST HIMSELF
3. Simply put... treasuring Christ more than any earthly privilege or possession or pleasure will move you to be willing to suffer with Him and for Him
4. A FUTURE-LOOKING disposition... FAITH

H. Seven Texts In Hebrews Cover the Same Ground... So it is No Overstatement to Say this is the Central Purpose of the Whole Book

1. Hebrews 10:34 People who joyfully accepted the seizure of their property

Hebrews 10:34 You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had a better and lasting possession.

That “better and lasting possession” is CHRIST

2. Hebrews 11:6 The essence of faith is to look ahead to the reward

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

The reward God gives those who earnestly seek Him is CHRIST...

3. Hebrews 11:10,13-16 Aliens and strangers on earth who lived in tents

Hebrews 11:10 For Abraham was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

The glory of the eternal city is CHRIST

Hebrews 11:13-16 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country-- a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Again, these people were willing to live strange, counter-cultural lives, giving up the security of the city of Ur of the Chaldees to wander in the Promised Land, living in tents and having no permanent thing to call their own because they were longing for an eternal country and an eternal city... and again, the glory of that city is CHRIST

Revelation 21:23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

4. Hebrews 11:24 Moses embraced a life of suffering

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Moses gave up a life of pleasure and ease and comfort and security as a relative of Pharaoh... he gave up the fleeting pleasures of sin and chose a life of suffering for CHRIST... why? He was looking ahead to his reward, and that reward is CHRIST

5. Hebrews 11:35 the better resurrection

Hebrews 11:35 Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

The “better resurrection” is CHRIST...

John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life”

These faith-filled people delighted in the idea of their future resurrection with Christ and thus refused to be released from prison. They were TORTURED and REFUSED RELEASE!!! Why? They were looking ahead to their infinite reward

6. Hebrews 12:2 Jesus and the joy set before Him

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What motivated Jesus? It was nothing less than the JOY SET BEFORE HIM... that was the MOTIVE that drove Him through all of the suffering and the shame of the cross

This is the perfect example of motive that we are supposed to understand and emulate

It was not GRIM DETERMINATION or STOICISM that caused Jesus to endure the cross... it was FUTURE JOY!!! It was the contemplation of all the glory that would come to God from His suffering to save a multitude greater than anyone could count from every tribe and tongue and nation and language.

7. Hebrews 13:14 the city that is to come

Hebrews 13:12-14 so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

8. ALL ADD UP TO ONE THING: embrace a radical life of suffering for Jesus because of the sweetness of the eternal treasure that comes... and that treasure is Christ

John Piper, T4G: "I want the world radically rocked by the way you live your lives! I want your lives to have a risk-taking flavor. I want you to be living with such an overwhelmingly powerful heavenly focus that people will feel uncomfortable around you... I want you to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, so that, they will either yearn to know the Christ that has made you so radical or they will seek to persecute you and pour out abuse on you.

Look what happened to Stephen... he was proclaiming Christ in the synagogue so powerfully that they arrested him and brought him before the Sanhedrin. There, his face was shining like the face of an angel!! He then preached Christ so boldly and powerfully that they stopped their ears and ran at him screaming...

Acts 7:55-58 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.

BUT HIS DEATH WAS NOT IN VAIN!!! At the cost of Stephen's blood, the Holy Spirit used the ensuing persecution—led by Saul of Tarsus—to expel almost the entire church out of the city of Jerusalem... Stephen lit a fire under

them at the cost of his blood!! And he lit the fuse on a time-bomb in the heart of Saul that went off on the road to Damascus

It was Stephen's other-worldly faith that did this

I want us to live openly for Christ and risk for him and move out for him and be persecuted for him

The world is largely ignoring us because we seem to want and love the same things they do. Hebrews 13:12-14 calls on us to come to Jesus OUTSIDE THE CAMP... out into the suffering place

II. Jesus Suffered Outside the Gate

Hebrews 13:11-12 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

A. The Day of Atonement

1. Worshipers USUALLY were allowed to eat from the flesh of the animals they offered in sacrifice
2. BUT the Day of Atonement had a major exception
3. On that day, the Lord perfectly symbolized the death of Christ on the cross for our sins
4. One bull and two goats were selected
 - a. The bull was sacrificed for the sins of the priest... he had to offer sacrifice for his own sins
 - b. One of the goats was sacrificed for the sins of the people
 - c. The other goat—called the scapegoat—was led out into the wilderness where he was let go as a symbol of the perfect forgiveness of sins Christ would work
 - d. Some of the blood of the sacrificed bull and goat, however, were carried into the Most Holy Place and sprinkled on the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant

e. Then: the flesh of the bull and goat were carried OUTSIDE THE CAMP to be burned there... they were NOT EATEN

B. Christ Fulfilled this Picture Perfectly

C. Why Did God Establish This Picture? It was Symbolize Christ's REJECTION for Us

1. Rejected by His own people

Isaiah 53:2-3 He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

John 1:10-11 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 15:25 this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

John 18:39-40 it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" ⁴⁰ They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion

2. Rejected by God in our place

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

D. The Disgrace of the Cross

1. Condemned as a criminal

2. Rejected by his people

3. Cast out of the city as a piece of garbage

4. Mocked and scorned viciously

Matthew 27:39-44 *Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"* ⁴⁴ *In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.*

5. This is the “reproach” that the verse mentions

Hebrews 13:13 *Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.*

- a. The “disgrace” is the societal scorn and rejection... the humiliation poured on by a persecuting people
- b. Stephen’s OWN PEOPLE killed him
- c. Muslim converts are frequently executed by their OWN FAMILY MEMBERS... their own fathers or brothers or uncles or cousins accuse and execute them for their conversion

E. The Reward of the Cross: Making the People Holy

Hebrews 13:12 *And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.*

1. All this abuse was not mindless and purposeless
2. Jesus knew very well this was the price for making His elect people HOLY... the cost of our salvation was His precious blood, shed in such a cauldron of humiliation and rejection by the people

F. aa

III. Let Us Go to Him Outside the Camp

Hebrews 13:13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.

A. What Does the “City” or the “Camp” Represent?

1. Human Society... approval from other people
2. It represents good, comfortable relationships with others
3. It represents peace, harmony, and prosperity
4. From infancy, every society trains up its children on social etiquette, social norms
 - a. Manners: how to behave pleasingly at the table; how to say “Please” and “Thank you”... parents are complimented on how well-mannered their children are
 - b. These manners are different in every society; there are rules and regulations for greetings and dress and language patterns and educational expectations
 - c. Society puts pressure on every child to conform to those norms... to FIT IN and do what everyone expects
 - d. This training comes in terms of things so simple as body language and facial expressions: little children learn to study the faces of their parents and then a wider and wider circle of other people to determine one question: “Am I doing the right thing?” The affirming smiles and laughter and nods and pats on the back form a huge part of the way a culture shapes and molds each child for future adult life as a pleasing member of society
 - e. It becomes ingrained to YEARN FOR APPROVAL of others... and for the most part this is a good thing; children who have absolutely NO CONCERN for societal approval are SOCIOPATHS who will probably end up in jail
5. The “City” or the “Camp” then represents safety, security and ease and prosperity... everything you can want in this world

- a. The city had walls around it to protect it from enemies
 - b. It had shops and bazaars and comfortable homes and an economy and plenty of food and water
 - c. It represents everything the world has to offer
6. To have the city turn against you and reject you is one of the most TRAUMATIC experience one can endure
- a. We usually use a strong word for it: SHAME
 - b. To be ASHAMED is one of the greatest, most powerful fears in anyone's heart
 - c. To be rejected and mocked and hated by people is a NIGHTMARE scenario, lurking strongly in the heart of all sane, normal people
 - d. To become a LAUGHINGSTOCK or even worse, the focus of universal societal REJECTION and HATRED is such a powerful force, it could lead even to suicide
- B. What is the Call to Go to Him Outside the Camp?
- 1. The text pictures Jesus outside the gates, having been rejected and hated and scorned by His people
 - 2. From the text, Jesus is calling to us, beckoning to us to JOIN HIM IN HIS SUFFERING
 - 3. He is calling to you from a distance... He is saying, "I'm out here... I'm not in there!"
 - 4. Out there it is dangerous... there is HUMILIATION out there... there is PAIN out there... there is SUFFERING out there
 - 5. But that is where the NEED is too
 - a. Outside the camp are the Gentile nations
 - b. Outside the camp are the lost neighbors

- c. Outside the camp are are poor people and mission trips and outreaches and contact evangelism and strangers on airplanes and in malls and at play groups and watching children's soccer games...
- d. Outside the camp are the needs of the world... no one can stay SAFE and SECURE and meet those needs

C. What Does it Mean to Bear the Reproach He Bore?

1. It means to break societal rules and let your light shine for Jesus
2. It means to be willing to speak up for Christ and witness for Him
3. It means being willing to stand up for a matter of biblical righteousness and bear the scorn that comes from that
4. In America, the reproach will be different than it is in other countries
 - a. In the Sudan, the “reproach” of Christians at the hands of Muslims is terror and assault and maiming and death... it means having your home burned to the ground or having your church blown up; it means having roving gangs of young Muslim men wielding machetes hunting you at night
 - b. Persecution.org has a map of the thirty most recent persecution accounts they have received... the map shows the entire world with little icons showing types of persecution... one of the icons is a skull, the other is a set of handcuffs... these are the two major sorts of assaults—1) physical assaults that result in injury or death; 2) imprisonment
 - c. In America, we are not very likely to see either one... but instead it is the following things:
 - i) On outreach, going door to door to witness to people, and the people in the house say something rude to you and slam the door in your face
 - ii) In the workplace, stepping out in faith to witness to a co-worker as you give him a ride home from work—he's having marital troubles and you lovingly share Christ with

him—he doesn't take it well, and from then on avoids you in the office; as you walk by, he makes a little comment that you can't hear and four or five people who do hear it snicker at you

- iii) In the workplace, you invite your boss to church and he looks surprised and says “This isn't the time or place to be talking about religion.” From then on, he's not as friendly to you as he was before. Five months later, you get your annual review and he gives you mediocre grades and no raise. You start getting passed by for better work assignments, and they are given to other employees instead.
- iv) In the neighborhood, you have a cookout for the neighbors; you invite them over and do a great job of making everyone feel at home; you seek to get to know them and have good conversations one at a time; but as you get into a conversation with a woman who hasn't been to church in years, she clams up and refuses to talk much after that. A week later, you see her walking her dog and wave to her as usual... but she turns away and won't look at you as you drive past.
- v) You are a college student; you eat dinner at the student center with other students from your dorm floor and start to build relationships; you are starting an investigative bible study on the Gospel of Mark and you invite this one student; he comes once, but seems detached and a little turned off; the next time you see him in the cafeteria, you sit down to eat with him, and he gets up and sits somewhere else.
- vi) You are involved in a pro-life ministry, and go to Planned Parenthood to reach out to the scared, troubled women who are walking into that wretched building to end the life of their pre-born baby; along with others you call out to offer them hope in Jesus' name; one couple—a man and a woman—are walking quickly in; the man has his arm firmly around the woman's shoulder; he looks determined, she looks sick and scared; you call out to her, offering her hope and saying Jesus wants to help her; the man turns

fiercely on you and yells profanity, cursing you for interfering; he calls you self-righteous, a Bible-thumper.

vii) You're in a college philosophy class, and an issue comes up that the Bible addresses; like the other opinionated, articulate students who freely offer their worldview opinion, you speak up for God and for the Bible; the classroom gets very quiet, and the professor makes a mocking comment; the room erupts in laughter, and you feel like you want to crawl in a hole and die.

viii) You have a brother whose life is falling apart because of various bad choices he's made; he knows you're a Christian, and you know that, more than ever before, he needs Jesus; you meet with him for lunch, and gently talk to him about his life, how things are going; he immediately gets touchy, a little defensive; you are humble, saying that Jesus came to help anyone who calls on him in faith; suddenly, he erupts in anger, making a little bit of a scene in the restaurant, and walks out on you.

So... it's FAR EASIER to stay inside the city gate; to stay in the safety of the camp; to have your private thoughts about Jesus but keep them to yourself and not let your light shine

Amazingly, Christianity calls on us to LIVE IN THE CITY or the CAMP USUALLY!!! We are not to be freaky, weird people who wear Halloween Costume clothes and speak some strange dialect that we make up and smell of some strange scent that makes people gag so that everyone runs for cover when they see us coming

Actually, Paul says we are to try to do everything we possibly can to fit in as long as it doesn't affect the message we proclaim:

1 Corinthians 9:20-22 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to

win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

D. What Makes this So Very Difficult to Do?

1. We are wired PROPERLY to seek others' approval and that is normal
2. We are called on to LIVE IN THE CITY ALL THE TIME... and just trade the comforts of the city in case after case after case so we can win others to Christ
3. In one sense, it is a ONCE-FOR-ALL decision we make to come outside the city and bear the reproach of Christ; but in another sense, we have to REMAKE THAT SAME DECISION every time we want to witness for Christ, stand up for Jesus in this dark world

E. So... How Do We Get Over those Difficulties????

IV. For We Are Looking Forward to the Future City

Hebrews 13:13-14 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

A. What Is Our Motivation? The Text Gives Us TWO

B. Negatively: This City is Not as "Safe" as It Appears

1. We are deceived by the devil into thinking that this "City" of social approval and wealth and comfort and ease and happy feelings is SAFE, and that place out there—the place near the cross of Christ, bearing the reproach He bore—that place is the DANGEROUS place
2. Actually, the OPPOSITE is true spiritually; the more we resist the call to go outside the city gate and be with Jesus, the harder our hearts grow; the more worldly we become; the SALT LOSES ITS SALTINESS; the word of God doesn't taste as sweet as it used to; we can become more susceptible to temptations, and lose our edge in fighting them; we can become more and more listless in the Christian life, more depressed, wondering what we're living for; this city is really the "City of Destruction" that is under the

judgment of God; the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares says we have to live together in close proximity, drive on the same roads, shop at the same stores, etc. But if we don't venture out from the city regularly to bear the reproach of Jesus, we may learn to love the world and the things of the world; **this CITY IS NOT SAFE!!!**

3. Therefore, we should not seek to be **STORING UP WEALTH** in this city... nothing stored up in the city will last for eternity... this is **NOT A SAFE PLACE** to store your riches... the things you're trying to **PROTECT** by staying **SAFE** in the city

John 12:25-26 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

C. Positively

Hebrews 13:13-14 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

1. The "City that is to come" = the Heavenly Jerusalem... our eternal home
2. We "are looking for" that city = looking ahead by faith; living for heavenly rewards and heavenly accolades and heavenly pleasures and heavenly security and heavenly esteem
3. Every time we venture by faith outside the circle of comfort, and go out where it's cold and hard and vicious and scary... doing it so we can serve Jesus and exalt Jesus and proclaim Jesus to a lost world... no matter what the outcome, we will **GLORIFY CHRIST** and **PROCLAIM** that He is our treasure; Jesus is worth more than anything else in the world to us

4. Every time we do that, we will STORE UP RICHES in heaven that can never be destroyed or stolen from us

D. Summarizing the Seven Passages: Looking Ahead to Our Reward

1. Hebrews 10:34 The Hebrew Christians joyfully accepted the confiscation of their property because they KNEW they had a better, possession... a lasting one
2. Hebrews 11:6 Without faith, it is impossible to please God, because we must believe that He exists and that he REWARDS those who seek Him
3. Hebrews 11:9, 13-16 The patriarchs were willing to live in tents and be aliens and strangers on earth because they were LOOKING AHEAD
4. Hebrews 11:26 Moses embraced a life of suffering and disgrace because He was looking ahead to his reward
5. Hebrews 11:35 Martyrs who were tortured and refused to be released did so because they were LOOKING AHEAD to their reward at the resurrection
6. Hebrews 12:2 Jesus suffered the very things Hebrews 13:12 speaks of because he was LOOKING AHEAD to the JOY of living with use forever in heaven

E. The Stories We Will Tell in Heaven: Courageous Journeys!!

1. A 1st century woman who goes to live with lepers in a leper colony so she can share the gospel with them and become as much a hated outcast as they were
2. An 8th century English monk gets in a boat and sails to Scandinavia to seek to evangelize the terrifying Vikings
3. A 13th century teenaged girl who refuses to flee the bubonic plague and stays behind in her town instead, laying down her life to nurse plague victims, contracting the disease herself

4. A 16th century monk named Martin Luther travels to Wittenberg and defends the true gospel, saying “Were there as many devils in Wittenberg as tiles on the roofs, I would still go”
5. A pair of 18th century Moravian men get on a boat and sail to the sugar plantations to become slaves in the West Indies in order to win them to Christ
6. A Muslim woman in Indonesia has a dream about someone in the capitol city of her district who will tell her the way to be saved; she risks her life to go hear this message, then risks her life further to tell it to her family
7. Less famous stories:
 - a. In a city neighborhood, a teen-aged boy crosses the street to witness to some gang-bangers, risking physical harm or at least ridicule in the effort
 - b. A tent is set up and a travelling preacher comes to town to preach the gospel; one youth wants to go, but all his friends make fun of him; he goes anyway, then returns to tell them the gospel message; they ridicule him further, but he leads one of them to Christ

SO... these are the reasons to make this journey... but they are not even the most compelling one

F. Adding One Very Profound One

1. Let us go TO HIM...

Hebrews 13:13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.

2. Hebrews presents the glorious Son of God as both the MEANS and the END of this journey
 - a. Jesus’ entire ministry of atonement—of the shedding of the blood and the purification of sins and the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit, of our adoption as sons and daughters—it was all a MEANS to an END

- b. What is that END? Eternal pleasures in Jesus... absorbed in the delights of the glories of Christ forever and ever and ever
3. So, those who venture out of the gate, outside the camp, will KNOW JESUS better and better now... it will be a painful foretaste of heavenly delights
4. Jesus is
- a. The radiance of God's glory
 - b. The exact representation of His nature
 - c. The one who sustains the universe by the word of His power
 - d. The one whom angels celebrate and worship
 - e. The one whose throne will last forever and ever, because it is founded on His love for righteousness and hatred of wickedness
 - f. The one whose enemies God will make a footstool for His feet
 - g. The Son of Man, who learned obedience and was made perfect by what He suffered
 - h. The one whose death purified many sons and brought them all to glory
 - i. The one whose death destroyed Satan's dark Kingdom
 - j. The one who is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters
 - k. The one who is greater than Moses... as a Son over the house is greater than a servant in the house
 - l. The one who is a merciful and faithful high priest
 - m. Who knows what it feels like to be tempted in every way just as we are, yet never sinned
 - n. The one who has opened for us a new and living way into the throne room of grace

- o. The one who is greater than all other priests... greater than Aaron, greater than Melchizedek... whose priesthood is perfect and eternal
 - p. The one who offered ONCE FOR ALL TIME His own blood to make us holy
 - q. The one who always lives to intercede for us at the right hand of God
 - r. The one who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, thinking very little of its shame... who did it all for JOY
 - s. This JESUS... He is the destination at the end of your courageous WALK OUTSIDE THE CITY
5. If you make that walk, the Holy Spirit will rest on you and make Jesus more delightful to you than ever before... while the world pours on its abuse, like Stephen, you will look upward and see the glory of JESUS

1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

V. So... What Does It Mean for You to Go to Jesus Outside the Camp?

- A. Come to Christ to Begin With
- B. Treasure Christ More than Ever Before
- C. Be Willing to Suffer for Jesus... Start to See the “City” and “Camp” for the Illusions They Are
- D. Focus on Evangelism and Missions
- E. Take Some Radical Steps to Serve Jesus... Do something RISKY for Jesus!!