

**Sermon title:** Let's go to Jesus outside the camp

**Sermon text:** Heb 13:11 – 13

## **Introduction**

1. This passage is a very rich both doctrinally and practically.
2. Today, we encounter the Yom Kippur – the most important Jewish ritual
3. We begin with an explanation of the Yom Kippur
4. At the end, we are encouraged “to go to Jesus outside the camp”.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

### **Background information**

1. The writer refers to the most important Jewish ritual – the Yom Kippur. The writer employs a shortened account of the Yom Kippur (Lev 16).
2. The writer highlights/selects the key points in the Yom Kippur which he wants to encourage the Jewish Christians.

3. There are parallels between these two verses. The writer deliberately compares the account in Leviticus with Jesus' own life and suffering.

4. In the OT (Lev 16), the main focus of the Yom Kippur was the High Priest's offering in the Holy of Holies.

5. But the writer deliberately draws attention to the often overlooked detail of the Yom Kippur – namely, that the carcasses were burned outside the camp.

6. For the writer, this burning of the carcasses was a picture of Jesus' suffering a shameful death (crucifixion) outside Jerusalem.

| S/No | 13.11            | Explanation<br>(Lev 16)                                        | 13.12                                          | Application today                       |
|------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1    | High priest      | 1. The Holiest Man in Israel<br>2. Simple white linen garments | 1. Jesus' office<br>2. Jesus' simple lifestyle | The true sinless<br>High Priest         |
| 2    | blood of animals | Sacrifice of substitutionary animals                           | His "own blood"<br>i.e. Substitutionary death  | The true Sacrifice<br>acceptable to God |
| 3    | Most Holy Place  | The Holiest Place in Israel                                    | (heaven understood)                            | The true Sanctuary<br>where God dwells  |

| S/No | 13.11                             | Explanation<br>(Lev 16)                                            | 13.12                                                                                       | Application today                |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4    | sin offering                      | Offered to cleanse the people                                      | make the people holy                                                                        | The true cleansing of the people |
| 5    | carcasses burned outside the camp | The ritual - The carcasses were taken outside the camp and burned. | The writer connects this “outside” location with Jesus, who suffered outside the city gate. | Jesus suffered a shameful death. |

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

## **Observation**

1. Under the old covenant, a Jew would expect to stay within the camp and go towards the Tabernacle.
2. The Jew would naturally hesitate to go outside the camp because that was the place of exclusion and impurity.
3. The writer is asking the Jewish Christians to accept what they are trying to avoid: rejection, shame, loss of social standing, exclusion from the religious establishment.

4. But the writer reverses that expectation. The old camp no longer contains the ultimate reality. God's saving work is found in Jesus who was crucified outside Jerusalem.

## Application

1. Choosing Christ over **career** (John Mark, S Aw), **money** (deliberately skipping worship on Sundays to make more money) and **social status** (KBH – playing golf on Sundays)

2. Choosing Christ over social ties may mean sometimes appearing outdated, anti-social (1 Pe 4. 3 – 4) (EP you're a good boy)

3. Choosing Christ over safety in our traditional family “camp” (this is a composite)

- + SaFI/Vancouver – “we are getting married – admonish me”
- + “unbaptize him” “slap across the face”
- + “get out of the house”

## Summary

Jesus fulfils what the Yom Kippur could only point towards.

1. Jesus is the true High Priest. Unlike the Levitical high priest, Jesus is perfectly qualified to bring us to God.
2. Jesus is the true Sacrifice. Unlike the high priest who offered the blood of animals, Jesus offered his own blood (death) to make His people holy (clean).
3. Jesus' sacrifice is accepted by God.
4. Jesus' sacrifice is completely sufficient. Unlike the annual repeated sacrifices of the Yom Kippur, His sacrifice does not need to be repeated.

This is the Gospel – the Good News.

# Summary

5. Jesus suffered “outside the city gate” and bore disgrace for us.

6. Therefore, the writer calls us to “go to Him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace He bore.”

7. We are challenged to choose Jesus over career, money, status, social acceptance or even family expectations when faithfulness to Christ comes at a cost.

8. Our current approach: “How can I avoid the reproach?”

The writer challenges us for this week: “Let’s go to Jesus outside the camp and bear social and familial reproach.”