

## Hebrews (May 23, 2021)

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ Hebrews 13:17-25

**NOTE:** “The recipients of this letter, who have already been exhorted to remember and to imitate the faith of their former leaders already dead (v. 7), are now enjoined to obey their present *leaders*. Such admonition implies the author’s confidence in the ability and genuineness of the leadership, and it suggests that **the community to whom he is writing is not as a whole giving these leaders the respect that is their due.**”

(A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews p. 585 by Philip Edgcumbe Hughes)

“There is in v 17a an intimation of a **strained relationship between the members of the house church and their leaders**...The near context refers to the ‘various strange teachings’ (v 9), which distort the word of God proclaimed in the past and which threaten the stability of the assembly in the present. If there is a direct connection between that disturbance and the admonition in v 17a, this can only mean that the tension existed between the members of the assembly and their leaders. **The source of that tension was the group’s attraction to the ‘various teachings.’**”

(47B Word Biblical Commentary Hebrews 9-13 p. 554 by William L. Lane)

1. Considering the insinuated tension between the community and its leaders, why do you think such strong admonitions were given in Hebrews 13:17?

List the charges given to believers concerning their leaders from Hebrews 13:7,9,16-18; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:16. Who would this benefit and in what ways?

2. Describe the weighty responsibilities and needed attitude(s) of true spiritual leaders found in Hebrews 13:17-18; Acts 20:28-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:16, 4:1; 3 John 4.

3. Much of the author's letter to the Hebrews is filled with stern admonitions. What can be detected in Hebrews 13:18-19 about the author's impulse behind these caveats? Share the similarities with those of Paul (2 Corinthians 1:11-14; 4:1-2, 5).

4. Based upon the benediction given in Hebrews 13:20-21, what can believers be confident of and why can we have this confidence?

5. The only place in the epistle where the title "shepherd" is given to Jesus is found in Hebrews 13:20. What do you most especially appreciate about "the great shepherd of the sheep" (Psalm 23; John 10:10-18)?

6. The final plea from the author to the Hebrew audience is to "bear with my word of exhortation" (Hebrews 13:22). Recall from the book of Hebrews some of the key themes and exhortations.

7. What has impacted you the most from your study of Hebrews?