

Seeing Only Jesus

16) Outside The Camp

'Then the Lord said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people." And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. For the Lord had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.' " So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb...'

*'..Moses took his tent and pitched it **outside the camp**, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was **outside the camp**. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle'*

(Ex.33:1-11)

- ✓ **While Moses was in the mount, the people worshipped the golden calf. This was apostasy**
- ✓ **God told Moses to lead Israel to Canaan. But He would not go with them, lest He consumed them**
- ✓ **He withdrew from them, but said He would send His angel to go with them**
- ✓ **He would also give them the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey, and victory over their enemies. But He would not go with them**
- ✓ **Could they be happy with the Promised Land, etc. but not have the presence of God? Could we be happy with the blessings of God, but not have God Himself?**

- ✓ **The people mourned. Clearly, they did value the presence of God more than His blessings**
- ✓ **Moses interceded and God told him to pitch his tent, the tabernacle of meeting, outside the camp**
- ✓ **God was now outside the camp**
- ✓ **This was a complete reversal of the previous order. Before, everything unclean was taken outside the camp because God dwelt in its midst**
- ✓ **To be inside the camp was to be where God dwelt and to be clean before Him**
- ✓ **But now the camp was unclean and God removed Himself from it. God was outside the camp**

New Testament Application

**Is there a situation where we are to go
outside the camp?**

***'Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the
camp, bearing His reproach. For here we
have no continuing city, but we seek the one
to come'***

(Heb.13:13-14)

**The word 'therefore' calls us to examine the
context...**



- ✓ **The message of Hebrews is that God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son**
- ✓ **The OT types and shadows pointed to Him. Jesus is God's ultimate and final message**
- ✓ **He still is and always will be, *'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever'* (Heb.13:8)**
- ✓ **In contrast, there will be a constant stream of many strange doctrines designed to carry us away from Him, *'Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them'* (Heb.13:9)**

✓ **Apostasy is when the 'camp' departs from the faith delivered to the Church by the apostles, which centres on Christ and His finished work. It is a Christless Christianity, 'Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons' (1 Tim.4:1)**

✓ **A great apostasy will precede the coming of Antichrist, 'Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition' (2 Thes.2:3)**

✓ **It will even involve miracles,** *'The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved'* **(2 Thes.2:9-10)**

✓ **It will have a form of godliness without the power,** *'But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves...having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!'* **(2 Tim.3:1,2&5)**

✓The 'form of godliness' without the power is the promise to be like God without the gospel, without Christ. A bloodless Christianity

✓Its teachers will appear to be authentic, which will also give it a form of godliness, *'For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works'* (2 Cor.11:13-15)

- ✓ **'Outside the camp' is not a call to separate from fellow-Christians**
- ✓ **When Christians separate from one another it tears the body of Christ and grieves the heart of the Lord**
- ✓ **All who believe on Jesus Christ are saved and baptized into Christ's body. They are our brothers and sisters**
- ✓ **Fault-finding and division are works of the flesh. *'...the works of the flesh are... dissensions, heresies...'*. Dissensions (*dichostasia* - to stand apart from, divide or separate from others in the body of Christ). 'Heresies' (*hairesis* - to allow particular beliefs to divide)**

- ✓ **There is one reason only for separating from professing Christianity. That is, when Christ Himself has been supplanted. We are to have no part in a Christless Christianity**
- ✓ **Jesus suffered outside the city of Jerusalem and Judaism, because inside that camp He was despised and rejected. In order to partake of Him the Hebrews had to leave that camp**
- ✓ **The emphasis is not on leaving the camp, but on going forth to Him. By going forth outside the camp unto Him we leave behind those who choose to remain inside the camp without Him**

**Laodicea is a picture of Christless
Christianity in the end of the age**

***'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If
anyone hears My voice and opens the
door, I will come in to him and dine with
him, and he with Me. To him who
overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on
My throne, as I also overcame and sat
down with My Father on His throne'
(Rev.3:20-21)***

**Laodicea was no longer His church, but
theirs. In spite of all its activity Christ
was on the outside!**

Summary

- ✓ **The camp is any church or denomination whose message is clearly no longer 'Jesus'**
- ✓ **There have been times in church history when God's people have been called to go 'outside the camp' for that reason**
- ✓ **In such cases Jesus Himself will sustain His people who withdraw for this reason**
- ✓ **But separating over non-essentials is carnal. We are to maintain the unity of the faith in the bond of peace**