**Hebrews Lesson 20**

**Hebrews 13:1-25 (NIV)**
1  Keep on loving each other as brothers.
2  Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.
3  Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.
4  Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
5  Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
6  So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"
7  Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
8  Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
9  Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.
10  We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.
11  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.
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.
15  Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.
16  And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
17  Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.
18  Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.
19  I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.
20  May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,
21  equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
22  Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.
23  I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.
24  Greet all your leaders and all God's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.
25  Grace be with you all.

[13:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A2) entertain strangers. See [Mt 25:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A35). strangers. Members of the Christian community not personally known. entertained angels without knowing it. As did Abraham ([Ge 18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+18)), Gideon ([Jdg 6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6)) and Manoah ([Jdg 13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+13)).

[13:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A3) Remember those in prison... and those who are mistreated. Especially fellow believers (see [10:32-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A32-34); [Mt 25:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A36); [1Co 12:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+12%3A26)).

[13:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A4) See [Ex 20:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+20%3A14) and note. Marriage should be honored. See [1Co 6:13-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+6%3A13-18); [7:1-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+7%3A1-15); [Eph 5:26-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+5%3A26-31); [1Ti 4:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A3). adulterer and... sexually immoral. See [1Co 6:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+6%3A9).

[13:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A5) love of money. See [Lk 12:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+12%3A15),[21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+12%3A21); [Php 4:10-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A10-13); [1Ti 6:6-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+6%3A6-10),[17-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+6%3A17-19). be content. See [Php 4:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A11-12); [1Ti 6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+6%3A8).

[13:7-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A7-17) A unit framed by the exhortation to "Remember your [past] leaders... and imitate their faith" and the exhortation to "Obey your [present] leaders and submit to their authority."

[13:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A7) leaders, who spoke the word of God. See [2:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A3); [5:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A12). Consider the outcome of their way of life. Consider how they persevered in their faith and entered into the promised inheritance (see [6:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A12)). imitate their faith. See [6:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A12); [Eph 5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+5%3A1); [1Th 1:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+1%3A6) and notes; cf. [1Co 4:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+4%3A16).

[13:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A8) Jesus Christ is the same. A confession of the changelessness of Christ, no doubt related to the preceding verse. The substance of their former leaders' faith was the unchanging Christ. yesterday. Probably the days of Christ's life on earth, when the eyewitnesses observed him ([2:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A3)). today. The Christ whom the eyewitnesses saw was still the same, and what they had said about him was still true. forever. And it will always be true. To compromise his absolute supremacy by returning to the inferior Aaronic priesthood and sacrifices (see chs. 5-10) is to undermine the gospel.

[13:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A9) not by ceremonial foods. As the legalistic Judaizers were teaching. The old Mosaic order was done away with at the cross and must not be revived.

[13:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A10) We have an altar. Probably refers to the cross, which marked the end of the whole Aaronic priesthood and its replacement by the order of Melchizedek, of which Christ is the unique and only priest. no right to eat. The priests could not eat any part of the sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, but we can partake of our sacrifice, so to speak—through spiritual reception of Christ by faith (see [Jn 6:48-58](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+6%3A48-58)). We have a higher privilege than the priests under the old covenant had.

[13:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A11) burned outside the camp. See [Lev 4:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+4%3A12) and note; [16:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+16%3A27).

[13:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A12) Jesus also suffered outside the city gate. Christ's death outside Jerusalem represented the removal of sin, as had the removal of the bodies of sacrificial animals outside the camp of Israel.

[13:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A13) go to him outside the camp. Calls for separation from Judaism to Christ. As he died in disgrace outside the city, so the readers should be willing to be disgraced by turning unequivocally from Judaism to Christ (cf. [Ac 5:41](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+5%3A41)).

[13:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A14) city that is to come. See notes on [11:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A10),[14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A14),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A16).

[13:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A15) sacrifice of praise. Cf. [Ro 12:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+12%3A1). For the OT background see notes on [Lev 3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+3%3A1); [Ps 7:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+7%3A17); cf. [Ps 51:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+51%3A17) and note.

[13:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A16) sacrifices. See [Php 4:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A18) and note.

[13:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A17) your leaders. Their present leaders, as distinct from their first ones, now dead, mentioned in [v. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A7) (see note on [vv. 7-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A7-17)). submit to their authority. Dictatorial leadership is not condoned by this command (see [2Co 10:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+10%3A8) and note), but respect for authority, orderliness and discipline in the church are taught throughout the NT.

[13:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A19) restored to you soon. The identity and whereabouts of the writer are not known to us, but "restored" suggests that somehow he had been delayed in visiting those to whom he was writing, perhaps by his current ministry. That he was not under arrest is clear from [v. 23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A23).

[13:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A20),[25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A25) peace... Grace. See note on [Ro 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A7).

[13:20-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A20-21) This benediction provides a fitting conclusion to the letter.

[13:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A20) God of peace. A title for God used frequently in benedictions (see [Ro 15:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+15%3A33); [16:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+16%3A20); [Php 4:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A9); [1Th 5:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+5%3A23) and note). blood of. See [10:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A29) and note. eternal covenant. The new covenant (see note on [8:8-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A8-12)). What Jeremiah designates as the new covenant in [31:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+31%3A31) he describes as everlasting in [32:40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+32%3A40) (cf. [Isa 55:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+55%3A3); [61:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+61%3A8) and notes). great Shepherd. See, e.g., [Ps 23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+23); [Isa 40:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+40%3A11); [Eze 34:11-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+34%3A11-16),[23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+34%3A23); [37:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+37%3A24); [Jn 10:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A2-3),[11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A11),[14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A14),[27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A27); [1Pe 2:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A25); [5:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+5%3A4).

[13:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A21) everything good. Such as faith, faithfulness, obedience and perseverance.

[13:22-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A22-25) A postscript.

[13:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A22) Brothers. See note on [Ro 1:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A13). word of exhortation. See Introduction: Literary Form. The main thrust of the letter is to go on in Christian maturity and not fall away from Christ. short. Compared to the lengthy treatise that would be necessary to explain fully the superiority of Christ.

[13:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A23) Timothy. See Introduction to 1 Timothy: Recipient.

[13:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A24) leaders. Mentioned in [v. 17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A17). Those from Italy. From this brief greeting no firm conclusion can be drawn concerning the source or destination of this "letter." The writer may simply be passing on to his readers greetings from some Italian believers.

[13:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A25) with you. Cf. note on [2Co 13:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+13%3A14).

|  |
| --- |
| **The "Greater-Thans" in Hebrews** |
| One of the author's main points in Hebrews is that Jesus is greater than all those things associated with the Jewish religion and way of life. Sometimes he actually uses the words "greater than"; sometimes he does not. But in all cases the theme is clear. |
| **Theme** | **Passage in Hebrews** |
| Jesus is greater than the prophets | [1:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+1%3A1-3) |
| Jesus is greater than the angels | [1:4-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+1%3A4-14); [2:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A5) |
| Jesus is greater than Moses | [3:1-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A1-6) |
| Jesus is greater than Joshua | [4:6-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+4%3A6-11) |
| Jesus is greater than the high priest | [5:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A1-10); [7:26-8:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A26-8%3A2) |
| Jesus is greater than the Levitical priests | [6:20-7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A20-7%3A25) |
| Jesus as the high priest after Melchizedek is greater than Abraham | [7:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A1-10) |
| Jesus' ministry is greater than the tabernacle ministry | [8:3-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A3-6); [9:1-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+9%3A1-28) |
| Jesus' new covenant is greater than the old covenant | [8:7-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+8%3A7-13) |
| Jesus' sacrifice is greater than OT sacrifices | [10:1-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A1-14) |
| Experiencing Jesus is greater than the experience on Mount Sinai | [12:18-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A18-24) |
| Taken from The Expositor's Bible Commentary - Abridged Edition: Old Testament, by Kenneth L. Barker; John R. Kohlenberger III. Copyright © 1994 by the Zondervan Corporation. Used by permission of Zondervan. |

**NIV Study Bible.**

**Open it**

1. What images come to mind when you hear the word "authority"?
  **Those who lead us, mayors, governors, presidents**

2. How do you think angels are involved in human affairs?
 **They lead without being seen, nudging those who need the help, whispering into our ears those things God wants us to hear**

**Explore it**

3. What kind of love are Christians to demonstrate? ([13:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A1))
 **As brothers**

4. Why did the author encourage his readers to entertain strangers? ([13:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A2))
 **They may be angels**

5. What kinds of people does God want Christians to try to help? ([13:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A3))
 **those in prison and being mistreated**

6. What attitude toward money ought Christians to have? Why? ([13:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A5))
 **Not to love money over anything else, be content with what you have**

7. How can we learn to be content? ([13:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A5))
 **Remember that God will never desert you, not will I ever forsake you**

8. How should Christians view their spiritual leaders? ([13:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A7), [17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A17))
 **As ones to follow as an example, inmate their faith**

9. What attribute or characteristic of Christ is highlighted here? ([13:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A8))
 **Jesus never changes, the same yesterday today and tomorrow**

10. What illustrations did the author use to challenge his readers to resist the temptation to go back to Judaism? ([13:9-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A9-14))
 **the offers brought in for the blood their bodies are burned outside the gate, Jesus was crucified outside the gate and we should go to him their**

11. What kind of sacrifices should we offer to God? ([13:15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A15-16))
 **praise from our lips giving him thanks and doing good and sharing, for such sacrifices God is pleased**

12. What are the benefits of obeying one’s spiritual leaders? ([13:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A17))
 **Obey your leaders and submit *to them,* for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.**

13. What did the writer pray would happen to his readers? ([13:20-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A20-21))
 **Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, 21  equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Get it**

14. Why do you think is it so difficult to be content?
 **There is always something new to look at and wish for**

15. How can we draw contentment from God’s unchanging nature?
 **Knowing he wants us to succeed in what he as givens us to do, he shall give us what we need to get it do**

16. What does hospitality mean or entail?
 **putting your guests at ease and trying to be polit**

**Apply it**

17. What one action could you take this week to practice contentment with what you have?
 **learn to be more content**

18. What Christian friend or friends can you encourage to continue walking with Christ? How?
 **You here in class, with the teachings God has given**