

Outside the Camp

1. In biblical times an infectious disease could wipe out a whole community. Strict measures were required to protect the people. The sick and diseased were rejected and became outcasts of society. See Leviticus 13:17. Does our society still do the same sort of thing to people? Who? And in what way?
2. Jesus had a particular concern for the poor, the oppressed and the sick. (Luke 4:18-19) Jesus touched a contagious, diseased man and instantly the man's leprosy left him (Mark 1:40-42). Even today Jesus desires to live with the people who live 'outside the camp' Discuss.
3. In the parable of the banquet (Luke 14:16-18). Jesus offers people the best possible life as Christians yet they turn down His invitation. It is often the good things in life that keep people away from God rather than the bad things. (Mark 4:19). Discuss.
4. It is better to suffer the worst in order to get the best than to have the good things keep us from God's very best. *Discuss in terms of eternity...*
5. There are many sick, poor, and lonely people in our community. If we reach out to them in the name of Jesus they are highly likely to accept our invitation. *Why are they more open to Jesus than the rich and powerful?*
6. In what ways are we going outside of the camp to invite the poor, the lonely and the lost to the banquet? A church can be its own form of camp, that we are afraid to leave the comforts of. *What are some effective ways of getting alongside these people?*

7. When we go outside to fellowship with Jesus, we will also have to carry the disgrace that He bore. This world is not a friend of God and it will be not be a friend of ours (John 15:18-19). Do you agree?
8. Our church functions well as a hospital. We are good at receiving and helping many of the people the Lord sends to us. We could do more to make contact with poor, sick, lonely, people who may not even know that we care about them. Discuss.