

MARCH 30

“SHOULDN'T YOU APPRECIATE HIM ENOUGH TO GO OUTSIDE THE GATE?”

READ

Hebrews 13:11-13, Isaiah 53:3

The Hebrew people knew that outside the city gate were lepers, diseased, and dying people. Outside the gate was also the place of execution. That's where they stoned adulterers, murderers and idolaters. All the carcasses from the temple sacrifices were burned there. It was a garbage dump. Why was Jesus crucified outside the gate? Because that's where sinners dwelled. We were not in the temple. We were not within the confines of safety in the city. Outside the gate, our Savior became a foreigner to His own Father because of our sin. Paul referred to Jesus as a spiritual leper who took our sickness, disease, and sin in His body. God loved you enough to send His Son outside the gate, into the wilderness where you lived spiritually. He loved you enough to become a foreigner to His own Father and a leper in the Father's sight. He was executed by wicked men, becoming garbage by society's standards at a place called The Skull. With all He's done for you, shouldn't you appreciate Him enough to go outside the gate to reach others?

PRAY

Jesus, You touched the untouchable and loved the unlovable. That was me. It's not clean outside the gate, and it's not always safe, but I'm willing to go.

From August 4, 2013