

Hebrews: Jesus is Better

Lesson 3: Don't Miss Out! Learn from the Past. (October 12 & 13)

Read Hebrews 3:7-19

1. Thinking back to your childhood, what were the things you were warned about? Were you the type of person who listened to or neglected warning?

2. In 3:7, the preacher quotes Psalm 95:7-11, referring to the forty years Israel wandered in the wilderness. Look up Numbers 14:21-30 and answer the questions below. (Read Numbers 13-14 for complete context)
 - Who died in the wilderness without entering the promised land?

 - Which two men did enter the promised land (14:30)

3. Hebrews 3:7-11 warns of not hardening your heart through disobedience & unbelief like the Israelites who died in the desert and did not enter God's rest. Do you ever feel like the Israelites in their struggle throughout the Scriptures to follow God?

4. What reason does 3:18-19 give for Israel's inability to enter God's rest in the promised land?

5. How many times is the word *today* repeated between verses 3:7 and 3:15? Why do you think the preacher emphasizes this word?

6. How does the preacher make clear that we belong to a faith community? How would you counsel a friend who claims to have a high regard for Jesus but no regard for the church community?

7. When you hear the words "hardened heart" what adjectives, images, or pictures come to mind?



8. What dangers does a Christian today face in regard to “a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God” (3:12)?

9. How can we respond positively to the warning of this passage individually and as a church community?

10. In what current circumstances are you tempted to place your confidence in something or someone other than God? What area of hardness of heart might this be revealing in you?

Read Hebrews 4:1-13

11. What is the importance of rest in this passage and for us today? What happens when we don't rest?

12. Our unbelief often manifests as some form of self-reliance. What area of self-reliant unbelief keeps you from fully enjoying the rest granted to you in Christ?

13. Old Testament Israel had the opportunity to enter into the physical rest of the promised land – a rest from their wandering and their enemies. We have the opportunity to enter into rest of a different nature. Look up Matthew 11:28-30 and write down what Jesus has to say about our rest.

14. What five descriptions are given for the Word of God in 4:12?

15. Have you ever experienced Scripture as a sword piercing your very being? How does the Spirit use His Word to point you to Christ and away from sin?