

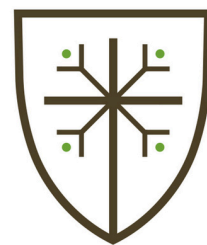
CLOSER ATTENTION

The Journey Home Through Hebrews



An Ordinary Time Sermon Series | Fall 2026

SERMON NOTES



August 23, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Able to Help"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Hebrews 2:1, 6-11, 14-16, 18

John 5:39-41, 44-46

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you confront fear? Do you turn to God, or do you cope by making meaning out of other areas of your life—work, relationships, school, etc.? What are those areas?
2. What is an area in your life where you can allow yourself to be better known by others? Where can you receive help? Where can you give help?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Tim continued our Hebrews sermon series this week. Overall, the series has focused on and will continue to focus on the weariness that the original audience felt and what even modern Christians still feel. However, today Tim examined what underlies and drives the weariness: fear. We are not alone or stuck in this fear; rather, Jesus sets us free from it.

Lifelong Slavery

Our reading quotes Psalm 8, which employs creation imagery and states that God made humans a little less than angels, ultimately showing that humanity was made to steward the Lord's creation. The language is regal and emphasizes the justice and order we were made to foster. However, that is not anyone's lived experience under sin. We do not and cannot do our job well because of sin. Rather than being ruling stewards, we are ruled consumers who are consumed in our consuming out of a fear of death and meaninglessness. By misusing the good things we were meant to steward—be they relationships, friendships, jobs, grades, etc.—we become enslaved to them. We build shrines to them throughout our lives so that by the end of our lives, we have a twisted sort of proof that our lives mattered—that even in dying (a fate tied to our sin and our status as less than angels), we did something with our lives. We force meaning into our lives, even though that was never our job. In doing so, we needlessly assume a role that was meant for God. No person can bear that weight, so we suffer under the trials of our own designs.

Completed Pioneer

One of the biggest problems raised in the book of Hebrews, the Bible, and humanity as a whole is the problem of suffering. We can look to verse 10 of our translation, where Jesus is described as the founder of salvation, as an answer. In other translations, the same word can be understood as pioneer. This connotation is important, especially considering the imagery of someone exploring a new land, carving a new path, and returning on that same path upon reaching the destination to lead others into that new place. In Jesus, God took on our nature and entered into our plight to pave a path of redemption through the fallen and broken land of sin; we know that Jesus is leading us back on the path of reconciliation to God and that we will reach the final union with him because Jesus himself has done so in his triumphant victory over sin and death. God redeemed the world in this way, through suffering, so that we may know that we are not alone in our own plights. Similarly, we can never say to God that he doesn't understand because God understands perfectly. Not only did Jesus experience suffering in his passion and on the cross, but also in his life leading up to those pivotal events. We can lean on our pioneer, who understands so well, and rest in his own knowledge and hope that we have no need to fear; he has already won, and we are being made complete in him. As we grow ever more like God through the refinement of enduring trial with a Christ-like character, we grow more courageous and hopeful and loving. Ultimately, we too can act as pioneers to others, entering into their need and suffering and pointing and leading them back to God.

Practically, what that looks like is not just receiving and storing up what you have heard, but being known, letting others into your suffering to be helped by them, and helping others when the need arises. Go deep, just as Jesus deeply knows and pursues and loves you.