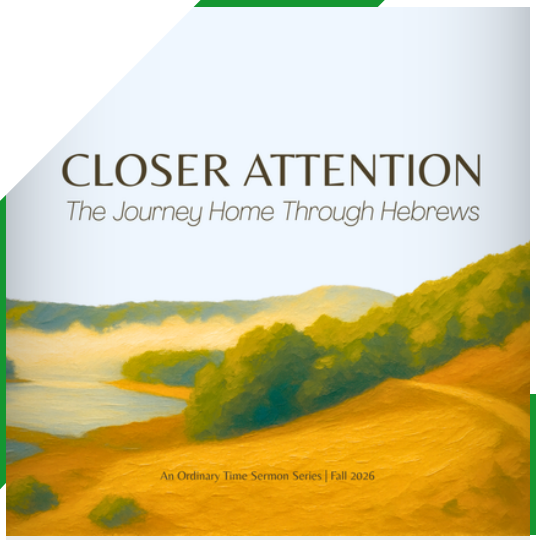


SERMON NOTES

November 8, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Cynicism's Savior"

PREACHER

Rev. David Vilches

TEXTS

Isaiah 62:1-5

Hebrews 12:18-29

John 4:7-9, 13-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where does cynicism show up in your life?
2. How have you seen Jesus show up in the places of your greatest cynicism?
3. How can we encourage and help one another to hear and follow the voice of Jesus?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This Sunday, as we round out the last few weeks in our Hebrews sermon series, David Vilches led us in a closer look at cynicism and the cure for it found in Christ.

Death of Cynicism

In verses 18-24 of Hebrews 12, a contrast is being made between earthly Mount Sinai and heavenly Zion. Throughout Hebrews, as the title of our series reminds us, we hear the repeated refrain to pay closer attention to Jesus because he is better than anything that has transpired in all in human history. And here again in verse 18, we see that we have not come to a mere earthly Sinai like the Israelites in the wilderness, waiting for a terrified mediator to come down. Rather, we have before us a heavenly Zion, a city where, because of the blood of Christ, we have direct access to God. We have not come to the lesser thing but to the substance to which that thing has always pointed. The author of Hebrews exhorts his Jewish Christian audience, stop looking for Mount Sinai to give you what you already possess in Zion - a living God full of mercy and steadfast love.

This original audience found themselves, much like us, living in the midst of a cynical age - an age marked by a grumbling, scornful, mocking attitude and an inclination to question the very value of life itself. But Hebrews says that there is an antidote to our cynicism, not found in some manmade plan but only in the blood of Christ. In our Gospel reading, Jesus encounters the woman at the well in the very height of her cynicism, at the end of her rope. He meets her there, knowing her story, and gives her hope. We are all effected by cynicism to some degree and Jesus shows up for us to, in the exact place that needs healing.

Dawning of Christ's Kingdom

So, how can we be healed from our cynicism? Verses 25-29 give us another "old vs. new" contrast and a warning. They warn us not to ignore the voice of Jesus. The antidote to cynicism is not just the absence of something destructive but the presence of the life-giving Jesus. Our Good Shepherd has called us away from other other shepherds, out of other sheepfolds. The first step to being freed from cynicism is listening to his voice.

The second step is to not just listen with our ears but to trust with our hearts. Verses 26-27 speak of an eschatalogical intrusion - the future breaking into the present. It describes a time when all earthly kingdoms will be shaken and end but the kingdom of God, of which we are citizens, will remain unshaken. We are seated even now in heavenly Zion but are waiting for his second coming. This produces an attitude not of naive optimism but sober realism, trusting that God has our best interest in mind, even in the midst of doubts, complaints, or hardships.

Hebrews shows us the dawning of Christ's kingdom, that it has come and will fully come. It calls us to thanksgiving and gratitude in worship for the glory of that enduring kingdom in which, when it comes in fullness, there will be no more pain, tears, sin, or death. Cynicism, at its base, is a fear to hope. We, as followers of Christ, are each a sign of hope in a cynical age as others encounter us in all we are and do. We will begin to see ourselves more and more seated in heavenly Zion as we look more and more like Christ.