

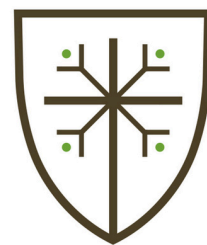
CLOSER ATTENTION

The Journey Home Through Hebrews



An Ordinary Time Sermon Series | Fall 2026

SERMON NOTES



August 30, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Holding Fast"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Exodus 17:1-7

Hebrews 3:1-19

Luke 12:22-28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a time in your life that you were tempted to harden your heart against God. Who or what lifted your eyes again to behold the brilliance and beauty of Christ?
2. What are some practical ways that we can exhort one another to hold fast to our faith?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Have you ever been tempted to let go of something that is precious to you? Too often mounting outside pressures and simple weariness can bring us to a point of just wanting to give up. This was the situation faced by the Jewish Christian audience of the book of Hebrews. And in this week's passage, the author encourages them to hold fast. So, what do they need (and what do we need) in order to hold fast to the faith as Christians?

The Dilemma

As newly converted Jewish Christians, believing Jesus was the fulfillment of Jewish law and God in human form had cost them everything - often their jobs, homes, and families. Looking back, they were asking the question, "was it worth it?" The author of Hebrews doesn't answer this question by running down Judaism but instead, he carefully contrasts the old way of life with the new. Moses was a faithful servant in God's house. Jesus is faithful over God's house as a son. The servant prepared the way for the Son, but the Son has more worth, more brilliance. The dilemma the new Christians faced and that we also face is "do I keep my life in Christ or have my life with that (whatever that may be)." We must ask ourselves what has more glory, weight, beauty, and brilliance. It isn't an immediate fix but it holds an eternal weight. Jesus is more beautiful. Jesus is better.

The Rebellion

The author tells his audience that they are in danger of falling into the same trap as the Israelites who rebelled against God in the wilderness (Ex. 17). He compares this first generation after Christ to the first generation after the exodus to show them that what they are experiencing is not something new, it is something ancient. The Israelites, though a free people now that they have left Egypt, are in the wilderness with no water. They quarrel with Moses (literally, prosecute). They demand that God prove that he is still with them. Rebellion is to believe and behave as someone convinced that God has fully abandoned them. We all know this kind of thirst, if not physical then certainly spiritual - "If I don't get this right now, you must not be near to me at all." All other sins flow from this - believing that God can't and won't keep his promises. This is not an atheistic unbelief but a demonic unbelief and hardening of heart that says God is not worthy to be followed.

The Cure

The author of Hebrews gives us two ways of pushing back against this deceiving power of sin. The first is to consider Jesus. Think deeply about Jesus' words and his life on earth when you are tempted to rebel. Are you thirsty? Jesus also thirsted. Have you been struck by the world? By suffering or loss? Consider Jesus. He was struck and died for our sin. He is faithful to endure with you.

The second thing is to exhort one another. We are called alongside one another to encourage each other with the faithfulness of Jesus. We are called to take our eyes off of our fears and losses and to lift them instead to the one who can and will end all thirst with himself. We will not make it through the wilderness alone, but together in Christ we will. Encourage one another with the faithfulness of Christ as long as it is called today.