

The Bible 20/20 Week 49: "The Power of Rest" (12-13-20)

Reading this week: Hebrews & James

Review: Series - Rediscovering Power of the Church (Gospel, Love, Community, Grace, Hope, Leadership)

Introduction: My 35th birthday - no rest for the weary!

Today: "The Power of Rest"

1) Striving & Rest

Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)

(1) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, (2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (3) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

- **Hebrews** - rich story brought to light by knowing the OT scriptures
- **OT** - the story of the world through the lens of Israel
- **Jesus** - the fulfillment and completion of the story (he made us and saved us!)

Hebrews 2:14-15 (ESV)

(14) Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

- The story of Christmas is God himself entering our human tragedy & struggle - facing all that destroys!
- The human story is an age old struggle with sin, satan, the world, and even with God

Hebrews 2:6-8 (ESV)

(6) It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? (7) You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, (8) putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

- God is mindful of us - in fact he cares so much, he became one of us!
- Jesus is in control - so rest is available, but . . .
- We can't see his full power on display yet!

Hebrews 2:1 (ESV)

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Note: Like a ship adrift at sea, when the storms and distractions of life arise we must remain fixed on him!

Let's look to the author & finisher of our faith . . .

2) Our Priest

Hebrews 5:1-3 (ESV)

(1) For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. (2) He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. (3) Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.

Note: The priest - doing for us what we can't do for ourselves. Our representative before God.

- Our real issue - ALWAYS - is our separation from God!
- Fear, Sin, Satan, on and on . . . ultimately the real issue in our separation from God
- All our striving is about not being right with God, not receiving peace from Him.

Hebrews 5:5-6 (ESV)

(5) So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; (6) as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Melchizedek . . . The Eternal Priest

Hebrews 7:1-2 (ESV)

(1) For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, (2) and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, **king of righteousness**, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, **king of peace**.

Genesis 14:18-20 (ESV)

(18) And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High. (19) And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; (20) and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Note: Melchizedek - a more perfect priest!

- **The ultimate priest** - unlike the Levite priests: eternal, greater, and he is also a king!
- **The ultimate king:**
 - **King of Righteousness** - meaning of his name
 - **King of Peace** - meaning of his title
- **The ultimate sacrifice** - He offers us bread & wine

Hebrews 7:22-25 (ESV)

(22) This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. (23) The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, (24) but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. (25) Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Note: We have a permanent & perfect Priest - so we can receive Righteousness & Peace!

3) Our Anchor

Hebrews 6:19-20 (ESV)

(19) We have this as **a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul**, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, (20) where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Note: The man behind the curtain . . .

- Once a year, the great high priest would perform his duty & enter the holy of holies
- The tied a rope around him so they could pull him out if he died
- Jesus enters once for all, and now he is our anchor - he pulls us in!

Closing Passage - Hebrews 4 . . .

Hebrews 4:9-16 (ESV)

(9) So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, (10) for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (11) Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Note: Strive to rest - it takes effort to rest in what Jesus has done. But not the way we think of effort. It's about faith . . .

Hebrews 4:9-16 (ESV)

(12) For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (13) And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Note: We stand exposed before God. And he loves us anyway . . .

Hebrews 4:9-16 (ESV)

(14) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Note: Let the high priest draw us near to receive all we lack! He is truly our anchor, so let's "strive" to trust him!

Conclusion: Let's rest in the work of Jesus. He is the anchor for our souls, so let's trust him & receive the Rest he has won for us!

Hebrews 10:39-11:1 (ESV)

(39) But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (11:1) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.