

Hebrews: No Turning Back

Week 2

Main Text: Hebrews 3:1-19

Main Idea

Hebrews was written to believers facing opposition and pressure because of their faith. The temptation was to shrink back, but the writer repeatedly points them to the worth of Jesus as the reason to persevere. In Hebrews 3, Jesus is shown to be greater than Moses. Moses was faithful as a servant in God's house, but Jesus is faithful as the Son over God's house.

The warning from Israel's history is clear: it is possible to begin well but fail to finish well. God calls us to keep our hearts tender and responsive to Him, continuing in faith even when following Jesus becomes difficult.

1. Fix your thoughts on Jesus

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

Hebrews begins this chapter with a direct instruction: "Fix your thoughts on Jesus." When following Christ becomes difficult, our attention can easily shift toward our circumstances, opposition, disappointment, or fear. Instead, Scripture calls us to consider Jesus and remember His greatness, goodness, and grace.

The writer compares Jesus with Moses, one of the most respected figures in Israel's history. Moses was faithful as a servant in God's house, but Jesus is worthy of greater honor because He is the Son over God's house.

Fixing our thoughts on Jesus is not a one-time decision. We continually turn our attention toward Him through His Word and prayer. Scripture reveals who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He desires for our lives. Time in prayer allows us to quiet the distractions around us and spend time in His presence. These rhythms help keep our hearts sensitive to God and give us strength to persevere.

Discuss:

1. What usually captures your thoughts when life becomes difficult?
2. Why would remembering who Jesus is help us persevere through opposition or discouragement?
3. What is the difference between simply reading the Bible as a religious habit and reading it to know Christ more deeply?

4. What could you change in your daily routine to intentionally fix your thoughts on Jesus?

2. Don't be deceived by sin.

Read Hebrews 3:7-13

Hebrews looks back to Israel's rebellion in the wilderness. They had experienced God's deliverance and goodness, yet their hearts became hardened through unbelief and disobedience.

The picture of a hardened heart is similar to a callus. A callus develops gradually and becomes less sensitive over time. Our hearts can do the same thing spiritually. Neglect, apathy, repeated sin, and disobedience can slowly make us less sensitive to God's voice.

Hebrews specifically warns us about "sin's deceitfulness." Sin promises something it cannot ultimately deliver. It may promise pleasure, comfort, satisfaction, or escape, but what it offers is temporary and eventually leaves hurt, guilt, and destruction behind. We must recognize the lie and remember that obedience to God offers something far greater.

Discuss:

1. Why do you think Hebrews describes sin as "deceitful"?
2. What are some things sin promises that it cannot actually provide?
3. How can a heart gradually become hardened toward God without someone immediately recognizing it?
4. Are there areas where you have become less sensitive to God's direction or conviction?
5. What can you do to keep your heart tender and responsive to God?

3. Encourage one another.

Read Hebrews 3:12-15

God never intended for us to follow Jesus alone. He has given believers His Holy Spirit, but He has also given us the body of Christ. Hebrews tells us to "encourage one another daily" so that we are not hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Encouragement is more than saying something nice. We help one another remain faithful. Sometimes that means noticing someone who is struggling, reaching out to someone who has drifted, or reminding another believer of God's truth when circumstances make it difficult for them to see it.

We both give and receive encouragement within the body of Christ. God may use another believer to help keep our hearts tender toward Him, and He may use us to do the same for someone else.

Discuss:

1. Why is Christian community so important to perseverance in our faith?
2. Who has encouraged you during a difficult season in your spiritual life?
3. Is there someone you know who seems discouraged or has begun to drift away from their faith?
4. What is one practical way you could encourage that person this week?
5. How can a Life Group become a place where people help one another remain faithful to Christ?

Personal Reflection

Hebrews 3 repeatedly warns us not to allow our hearts to become hardened. The goal is a heart that remains tender and responsive to God, one that listens when He speaks and obeys when He leads.

Take a few moments to consider:

Is my heart tender and responsive to the Lord, or have I become callous toward Him?

Am I consistently fixing my thoughts on Jesus?

Is there a sin or distraction that has been deceiving me and pulling my attention away from God?

Who has God placed in my life that I need to encourage?

This Week

Set aside intentional time each day to **fix your thoughts on Jesus** through Scripture and prayer. Ask God to reveal any area where sin has begun to harden your heart. Then identify one person who needs encouragement and intentionally reach out to them this week.

Memory Verse

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

Hebrews 3:13

Bottom Line

Jesus is worthy of our perseverance. Fix your thoughts on Him, don't be deceived by sin, and encourage one another to remain faithful.