

Sermon Discussion Guide
05.05.24 Message | Tyler Myers | Hebrews 8:1-13

Key Scripture (ESV):

"Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, 'See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.' But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: 'Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.' In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."

- Hebrews 8:1-13

Message Highlights:

- Superior Covenant Provides a Superior Presence: The new covenant through Jesus Christ brings a superior presence of God in our lives, replacing the old covenant, based on law, with a new covenant based on grace.
- Transformation through the Spirit: Under the new covenant, the laws of God are written on our hearts and minds, transforming how we live through the Holy Spirit.
- Universal Knowledge of God: The new covenant enables a deeper personal relationship with God where all, from the least to the greatest, will know him and is supported by a promise of mercy and forgiveness.

CONVERSATION STARTER

- If your spiritual journey was a road trip, what kind of road would it be— a smooth highway, a winding mountain pass or a city street full of stoplights? Share with the group and explain why you chose that type of road.

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- Hebrews 8:1-2 describes Jesus as a high priest in a true heavenly tabernacle. What does the writer mean by tabernacle and why is it so important that the tabernacle be set up by the Lord and not by man?
- Hebrews 8:6 states that Jesus obtained a ministry that is "much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better." According to this passage, what makes the new covenant better than the old covenant? What promises is the writer referring to?
- Hebrews 8:10 promises that God will put his laws into our minds and write them on our hearts. How does this internal transformation of the law differ from the way the law was given and followed under the old covenant?
- Reflect on Hebrews 8:13, where it speaks of the old covenant becoming obsolete and ready to vanish. What does this indicate about the permanence and significance of the new covenant introduced by Jesus?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- Reflect on how the promise of God's mercy in the new covenant influences your response to personal failings or sin.
- How can this understanding of God's grace and forgiveness impact your relationships with others?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

- How has understanding the new covenant changed your view of God's expectations for you?
- In what ways does the Holy Spirit help you live out the new covenant in your daily life?
- Discuss a time when you experienced the Holy Spirit guiding or convicting you in a situation. What was the outcome?
- What are some practical ways you can demonstrate the reality of the new covenant to those around you?
- How can the church community help each other live out the truths of the new covenant?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- How does the promise of a superior covenant and a superior presence (Hebrews 8:6) motivate us to pursue goals that have lasting significance in God's Kingdom rather than just short-term gains?