

***Jesus is the Better Exodus - Hebrews 3:7-19***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

Heart disease is the number one killer in our nation and around the world. In the U. S., 1 out of every 5 deaths can in some way be linked to an unhealthy heart. We are warned to do the right things to protect our hearts and seek its health, and we should heed those warnings. Yet, even more dangerous for us is the development of an unhealthy, hardened spiritual heart. Our passage this week is one of the pauses in the key argument made by the author (preacher) to give the key application for this sermon/letter. So far the author has reminded us that Jesus is the Creator, owner of everything, and the purpose for all of Scripture. He is crowned with glory and honor because of His suffering. He is our redeemer and founder of our salvation, the source of Spiritual life for those who believe. The author has also shown us that Jesus is better than the angels and better than Moses. It should be our response to erupt in worship and allegiance to Jesus.

Yet, the author knows that a danger lurks that can rob our joy by pulling us away from Jesus. So he warns us of the danger of spiritual heart disease. "Do not harden your hearts (repeated 2x)." "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil and unbelieving heart leading you to fall away from the living God (v. 12)." The original hearers knew people who at one time were believers in Jesus, yet the pressure from culture and the cares of the world were snuffing out their faith. Their hearts had become cold and calloused to the Gospel. Some flat out rejected the Faith, walking away. Others drifted over a period of time, hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

So the author takes us back to a key story in the Old Testament that included Moses. He quotes Psalm 95:7-11, which is an invitation to gather with God's people to sing praises to and lift our voices to the rock of our salvation. (I would encourage you to read all of Psalm 95 this week.) They are called to gather so that as one people they could come in to God's presence with thanksgiving and experience the greatness and rule of Yahweh. Yet, the second half of this Psalm was a warning for God's Old Testament people to remember part of their back story and learn from it. The Psalmist (and by extension the author of Hebrews) takes us back to the story of the Exodus, the grand story of the Hebrews deliverance out of slavery, to the presence of God, and toward the Promised Land. God revealed His glory and rule as He acted on His people's behalf, sending plagues upon the Egyptians while passing over the Hebrews. This included the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, which was the death of the firstborn in every home, with the exception of those homes who put sacrificial blood on their doorpost. Pharaoh told the people to go, they were freed! Yet, as they were led by God into the wilderness, Pharaoh changed his mind, pursuing them to kill every one of them on the banks of the Red Sea. In a magnificent miracle, God parted the sea, they walked across on dry ground, and then God brought judgment to Egypt by closing the sea on their army. Psalm 95 has this story in the background as it remembers how the people responded. They began with worship on the banks of the Red Sea, but that song of praise faded fast and became the sound of ungrateful and bitter murmuring, followed by crass idolatry and rebellion. By the time the people arrived at the edge of the Promised Land their faith had shrunk and their hearts became hardened toward the beauty of Jehovah. They did not believe in His ability and faithfulness, and they refused to enter the Promised Land out of fear of the inhabitants.

Now, God had promised that He would give the descendants of Abraham this land, and He would be faithful. But the generation who saw the salvation of God and left Egypt would miss it. The story tells us that God sent them back into the wilderness for a 40 year period where every person in this generation with 2 exceptions, Joshua and Caleb, died in

the wilderness and missed the experience of having a place of their own.

The authors point (of both the Psalm and our passage in Hebrews) is clear. The invitation is open, we can know God, experience His grace, and enter His presence with praise, thanksgiving, and singing. Yet many are becoming cold, callous to the things of God, and allowing ungratefulness, bitterness, idolatry and sin, and unbelief creep in. These are hardening agents, that will eventually result in the falling away of people who seemed to once believe. Don't let it happen! Run to God, and to His people. Lift up your voices and sing. Be thankful and worship God. Keep your eyes on Jesus and realize that His redemption and salvation are a much better Exodus than rescue from Egypt. We have been saved from slavery to sin and made free. And we too have a Promised Land. Don't let a sinful, unbelieving heart get so hard that you miss it!

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### **Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Philippians 4	Zechariah 1	Zechariah 2	Zechariah 3	Zechariah 4	Zechariah 5	Zechariah 6

Reading from this past week: Hebrews 3:7-19

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 4:1-11

### **Family Worship**

Song - *All Creatures of our God and King*

<https://youtu.be/UjsEoChcNw4?si=xekWcHeVpD3sy06>

#### **Gospel Project**

Unit: God Made a Promise

Story: A Wife for Isaac

Big Picture Question: Does God keep His promises?

Answer: Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

Scripture: Genesis 24-25

#### **New City Catechism**

Question 44: What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Verse: Matthew 28:19

#### **Scripture**

Hebrews 3:7-19

- The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 95 as a warning. What is this warning and how can we learn from the story the song references?
- Why is spiritual heart disease such a danger? Why would our text give an urgent warning to watch out for a hardened heart?
- What are some factors that could lead to a hardened heart that turns away from the living God? How do we protect ourselves from these things?
- What are the blessings of grace mentioned in this text and in other places that can protect us from spiritual heart disease?

#### **Prayer**

\*Pray for the those who teach the Bible in our various ministries.

\*Pray that God would protect us from sinful and unbelieving hearts.