

Jesus Is the Better Reward - Hebrews 10:32-39
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Its Mardi Gras weekend in the Lou. We are known to have the second largest Mardi Gras celebration in the good ole USA. Our city is proud of this, it makes my heart hurt. In case you don't know, Mardi Gras is literally French for "Fat Tuesday", so a little crazy that its celebrated on a Saturday. But I digress. It is the faith worldview that causes me to grieve every year this celebration rolls around. Fat Tuesday comes before Ash Wednesday, a day, that for millions of Christians begins a 40 day season called Lent. Lent is a time of fasting, repentance, and preparation for Easter weekend. The idea of Lent is actually beautiful when rightly applied. It is a good idea to realize that the remembrance of Jesus' once for all sacrifice will be celebrated, and to set aside a season of life to focus on the life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord. When done in faith and not out religious duty and compulsion, Lent is actually a good thing. But Lent and Ash Wednesday also gave us Fat Tuesday, or more accurately a whole weekend of willful, open sin and rebellion against God. And this is done because, well, we will repent on Wednesday. So live it up now. But this is exactly the sort of danger Hebrews warns us about which actually "trampled underfoot the son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant."

I mention this here because this sort of worldview represents one of the myriads of ways we can so easily drift from authentic saving faith in Jesus and toward sin, values, beliefs, and religiosity that will either cause us to walk away from Jesus or will lead us to reshape Jesus to fit our mold and desires. The whole book of Hebrews is written to people who are in danger of doing exactly this. Many have left the faith, deconstructed their belief in Jesus by going back to the religion of their heritage. Persecution, cultural pressure, and loss led to many drifting faith in Jesus. Hebrews is written as a warning to those who believe in Jesus calling them (and us) to fix our gaze on Jesus and to keep believing with endurance. For 10 chapters now in our study, the author has been proclaiming the excellency of Jesus, showing us so many ways Jesus is better than anything else the world or religion has to offer us. Jesus was a real man who came in history and lived in their lifetime. Yet this man is the embodiment of the True and Living God. His coming into the world actually defines all of reality. His perfect life, sacrificial death, and eternal resurrection is the fulfillment of every Law, ritual, leader, and image from the Old Testament. The message becomes incredibly clear. Jesus is so worth it, so keep your eyes on Him and don't give up! He alone can save, and He alone gives meaning and purpose in life. To lose Jesus in life is to lose everything and will put ourselves in the dreadful place of falling into the hands of the living God. The warnings in Hebrews are stark, but so are the promises of reward and blessing.

Central to the application of this book, then, is the call to endure in our faith. And when Hebrews speaks of faith, it is not speaking of a religious system of doctrines and beliefs. Specifically, it is the call to trust in Jesus, to believe in the Gospel while reminding ourselves continually that our salvation is completely based on what Christ has done alone. And the reward is so worth it! This is the theme of our text this week. The end of Hebrews 10 is an application text giving instruction on what the glorious truths of the previous 10 chapters mean for our lives. The author reminds them of how this early church started, in persecution and suffering. Yet God was faithful and the Gospel was unstoppable. They endured by experiencing the presence of God in the moment while also knowing that this world was not all God had to offer. To walk away from Jesus is to walk away from the better and abiding possession promised by Jesus at His return. The author lays out the path to faithful endurance for them and for us. Endurance happens when we look back and

remember God's faithfulness, His grace in the toughest of times. And endurance is built as we look forward, reminding our selves that "Yet in a little while, and the Coming One will come without delay." So we gather with God's people, encouraging one another as the day draws near, and we hold on to faith in Jesus. By fixing our eyes on Jesus, the real Jesus (not a false image of Jesus who fits our mold, but the Jesus revealed in Scripture), we can heed the call given by Hebrews. "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need for endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what was promised." (Hebrews 10:35-36)

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Genesis 1	Genesis 2	Genesis 3	Genesis 4	Genesis 5	Genesis 6	Genesis 7

Reading from this past week: Hebrews 10:32-39

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 11:1-6

Family Worship

Song - *The Lord, My God, My Salvation*

<https://youtu.be/RgikQg40ZEw?si=Q-YH9x0sh6R4HJP8>

Gospel Project

Unit: God is Powerful

Story: Crossing the Jordan River

Big Picture Question: Why can we trust God?

Answer: We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.

Scripture: Joshua 1, 3-4

New City Catechism

Question 10: What does God require in the fourth & fifth commandments?

Answer: Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in worship of God. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother.

Verse: Leviticus 19:3

Hebrews 10:32-39

- What are some of the ways believers in our culture tend to drift away from faith in Jesus? How are you most tempted to drift from Christ?
- According to verses 32-34, how did God shape the faith of this early church? How does this help us understand the nature of true faith?
- What are the promises from Scripture associated with the Second Coming of Jesus?
- How does this text and the book of Hebrews help us understand the endurance of faith?

Prayer

*Pray that we would have endurance in our faith knowing that Jesus will return and give us a great reward.

*Find and subscribe to the *Pray the Word* Podcast with David Platt and begin using this tool to help you in your daily prayer time.