



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

HEBREWS READING GUIDE

WEEK 5



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

WEEK 5
FEBRUARY 13, 2023



CHURCH IN THE SQUARE

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EVERY DAY ...

... A PASSAGE TO READ,

... SOME COMMENTS TO CONSIDER,

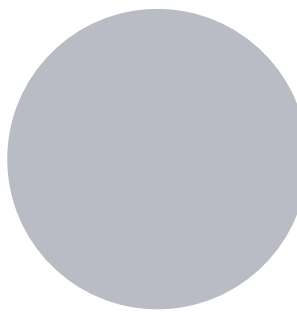
... THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK,

... A PRAYER TO PRAY.

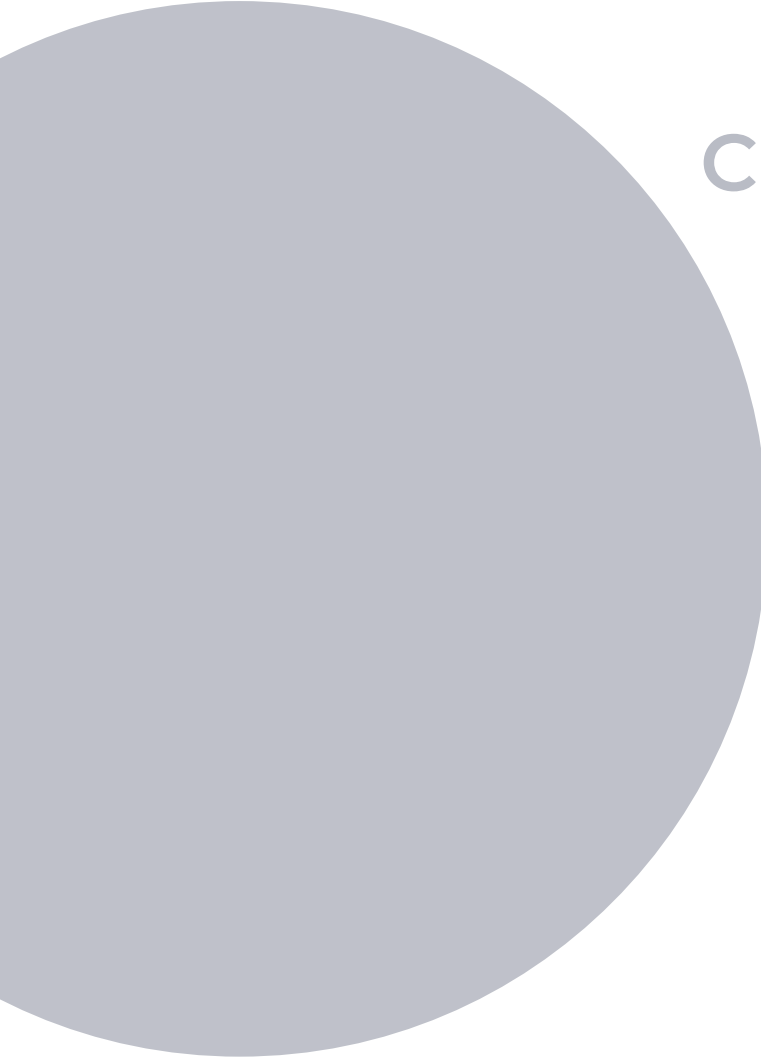


WEEK 5

HEBREWS 3:1-11



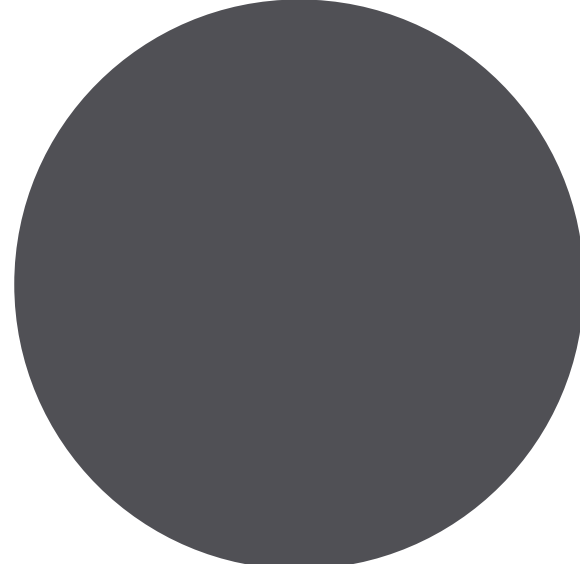
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DAY 1 CONSIDER THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS

First read Hebrews 3:1-2.

Faithfulness is about trusting the Lord. It's a persistence, despite opposition, to take him at his word. We aren't naturally faithful. Even when we string together a few good days, we're often drawn to pride and self-sufficiency. Ironically, our brand of faithfulness often lacks faith. Because in our obedience we don't trust and love God, we often trust and love ourselves.

And yet, the preacher tells us that we ***"share in a heavenly calling"*** (v.1a). Sharing communicates "an intimate relationship forged in a common spiritual reality" (Guthrie, 126). We're part of a spiritual family. Jesus is our loving brother. Together as a family we seek to remain faithful to our Heavenly Father. Since this doesn't come naturally to us, we're instructed to ***"consider Jesus"*** (v.1b). We're supposed to observe, think about, and emulate our big brother who is perfectly ***"faithful to him who appointed him"*** (v.2a).

Jesus' faithfulness is flawless. So we look to him, ***"the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and seated at the right hand of the throne of God"*** (Hebrews 12:2). Consider the faithfulness of Jesus, he'll show you and empower you to be faithful too.

DAY 1 CONSIDER THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS

1. In what ways have you experienced the faithfulness of God?
2. Why do you think it's so hard to stay faithful? How are you struggling to love and trust the Lord right now?
3. How do you think the cross shows and equips us to be faithful?

Heavenly Father ...

*Forgive my lack of faith. Especially when _____
and _____. Help my unbelief. Cause me today to
center my thoughts and affections on the faithfulness of Jesus.*

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 2 CELEBRATE THE WORTHINESS OF JESUS

First read Hebrews 3:3-4.

The writer draws out a comparison between Jesus and Moses. This would have been hard for his readers to hear. Hebrew's original readership was Jewish. They loved Moses. Moses was their hero. He was the founder of their religion. Yet, ***"Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses"*** (v.3).

Illustratively we're told Jesus is more worthy in the same way a builder deserves more glory than the house; the tailor more glory than his shirt; the artist more glory than her painting (see v.3b). The Creator is always more glorious than their creation.

While this might seem obvious, Paul pens an alarming warning to the Romans. He was concerned because they, ***"exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen"*** (Romans 1:25). We do this all the time. We get distracted by lesser glories. Celebrities seem more appealing than Jesus. Billionaires seem more powerful than Jesus. Influencers seem more captivating than Jesus. Moses seems more holy than Jesus. And so we center our lives on beauty, money, fame, and religion. But when we build our lives on lesser glories our houses always come tumbling down; only Jesus' house never falls (see Matthew 7:24-27). Because despite his ineffable worthiness, our Creator dies for his creation. Celebrate the worthiness of Jesus.

DAY 2 CELEBRATE THE WORTHINESS OF JESUS

1. What about Jesus do you find particularly worthy of glory?
2. What "lesser glory" are you routinely distracted by?
3. How does Jesus' death and resurrection prove his ultimate worth and glory?

Heavenly Father ...

You are worthy. Your Son is worthy. Your Spirit is worthy. Worthy of glory. Worthy of my worship. Worthy of my affection and obedience. Open my eyes to the feebleness of lesser glories this week and empower me to celebrate the worthiness of Jesus.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 3 BOAST IN THE HOPE OF JESUS

First read Hebrews 3:5-6.

All this comparison between Jesus and Moses can be misleading. Moses wasn't bad. In fact, he ***"was faithful in all God's house"*** (v.5). The preacher isn't throwing shade on Moses by comparing him to Jesus. Rather, he's showing us just how fundamentally different Jesus is from even the most beloved patriarch of the Jewish faith.

You see, Moses was a servant but Jesus is a son (v.5,6). Moses was a caretaker ***"in all God's house"*** but Jesus is ***"over God's house"*** (v.5b). The writer even speaks about Jesus in the present and Moses in the past. Moses is a human being. He's part of God's house like the rest of us, if we ***"hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope"*** (v.6b). Moses wasn't bad. But he wasn't special either. He was no less in need of hope than you or me.

Hope is all about our boasting. If we boast in ourselves, our specialness and own faithfulness we miss the gospel. If we boast in Christ we have a firm foundation and sure future. Quoting Jeremiah, Paul put it this way, ***"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends"*** (2 Corinthians 10:17-18). Boast in the hope of Jesus.

DAY 3 BOAST IN THE HOPE OF JESUS

1. How does God give you hope?
2. In what ways are you prone to hope or boast in yourself?
3. How does the gospel save us from false hopes and give us real hope and future?

Heavenly Father ...

Forgive me for often looking for hope in myself. Thank you for the real hope we have in Jesus. Thank you for the secure future we have in his resurrection.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 4 LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF JESUS

First read Hebrews 3:7-9.

Discerning the Lord's voice can be tricky. *How do we know what he's saying? How can we be sure he's the one speaking?* The Galatians were plagued by this conundrum. Shortly after Paul preached the gospel there, he was astonished to learn they were so quickly **"turning to a different gospel"** (Galatians 1:6).

A similar turning took place in the wildernesses of Meribah and Massah (see Exodus 17:7). The writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 95, referring to this **"testing in the wilderness"** (v.8b). We're not exactly sure how Israel was tested, but it's clear they responded to God's testing by testing God. That's not a good idea.

Their hearts were hardened toward God (v.8). Both Israel and Galatia knew the truth, but they didn't trust it. Sometimes what looks like wisdom is actually disobedience. In light of these cautionary tales we're invited to not **"harden our hearts"** when God speaks (v.8). Spiritually our hearts are directly connected to our ears. When our hearts are closed off to God, we can't hear and obey his voice. In fact, sometimes we're so hardened we not only don't listen to him but even blame him for not speaking.

Perhaps that's what the preacher is getting at here. Not how to discern God's voice but how to obey when we know exactly what he's saying. That's the good news of the true gospel: in Christ, our hearts are made soft toward the Lord. Listen to the voice of Jesus.

DAY 4 LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF JESUS

1. How do you think God is speaking to you right now?
2. Are you obeying his word? Is your heart soft or hardened toward the Lord?
3. Jesus listened to God's Word. How does his obedience encourage and empower receptive hearts?

Heavenly Father ...

Forgive me for not listening. Forgive me for not obeying. By your grace, soften my heart so I can hear and enjoy your Word in a fresh way today.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 5 KNOWING THE REST OF JESUS

First read Hebrews 3:10-11.

Israel's unwillingness to listen in the wilderness was a matter of the heart. God says, ***"They always go astray in their heart"*** (v.10, cf Psalm 95:10). Moralism tells us that sin is about what we say and do. Therefore various forms of religion offer us a holy dialect and pious deeds as the remedy which promises purification. Ostensibly, these new words and actions push back the tide of sinful consequence. However, the gospel tells us the real problem is deeper.

Without overlooking the ills of what we say and do, the gospel moves upstream to the fountainhead of our grief. Our sinful behavior is merely the visible manifestation of a corrupt soul. And as the Good Doctor, Jesus powerfully heals the disease, not just its symptoms (see Mark 2:17). Stated differently, Jesus gives us a new heart not just new habits (see Ezekiel 36:26). This is why in wrath God swore, ***"They shall not enter my rest"*** (v.11, cf Psalm 95:11). Fear of wrath drives a moralistic heart. Fear is relieved in a renewed heart.

By grace we can embrace the invitation of Jesus who says, ***"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"*** (Matthew 11:28). Moralism is unending labor. Grace is unending rest. Because we have a new heart, we can know the rest of Jesus.


DAY 5 KNOWING THE REST OF JESUS

1. What does it mean that Jesus is your rest?
2. How do you see tendencies of moralism in your life?
3. What fears can you release knowing the rest of Jesus?

Heavenly Father ...

Forgive me for the ways I constantly trust my word and actions, and forget your gospel work in my heart. Thank you that I can rest. Relieve me today of the fears of _____ and _____ . Help me to trust in your love and power today.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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