

God Speaks
Lecture Four: Hebrews 3:1 – 4:13
1/29/13

- I. The Example of Jesus – Hebrews 3:1-6
 - A. The Purpose of This Passage
 - 1. Both exhortation
 - 2. And exposition
 - B. Exhortation – Vv. 1-2
 - 1. Fix your thoughts on Jesus
 - 2. The faithfulness of Jesus
 - 3. Comparison to Moses
 - a. Faithfulness over God's house
 - b. Emphasis on community
 - 4. Sharers in the heavenly calling
 - C. Basis of the Exhortation – Vv. 3-6a
 - 1. Worthy of greater honor
 - a. Architectural analogy
 - b. Contrast of roles
 - D. Conditional statement – Vs. 6b
 - 1. What it does not mean
 - a. We are part of God's family (saved) if we _____
 - 2. What it does mean
 - a. We have _____ part of God's family if we persevere

3. Holding on
 - a. Word picture

II. Negative Example – The Wandering Israelites – Vv. 7-19

A. The Gist of the Passage

1. Quotation from Psalm 95:7c-11
2. Exhortation
 - a. So...
3. Do not be like the Israelites
 - a. Despite seeing God _____
 - b. _____ God and _____ to enter the land
 - c. The land and God's rest
4. They were _____ the land and God's _____
 - a. Because they were _____
5. Make sure you do not _____ your heart
 - a. Rather _____ to the end

B. A Few Points

1. First Exhortation: Do Not Harden Your _____
 - a. Refusal to _____
 - b. Obstinate, deliberate _____
 - c. Willfully following one's own _____
2. Second Exhortation: _____ one another daily
 - a. How to we hold firm to the end and keep a soft heart?
 - i. Daily _____ from other believers
3. Warning: We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first
 - a. Evidence that we are "in Christ"
4. Denied "rest"
 - a. Why?
5. Summary
 - a. In short, the hearers are not to follow the example of those who fell in the desert but are to hold firmly to their Christian confidence, keeping a soft heart and vigilance against sin. They accomplish this in part by encouraging one another during this

present age in which they have opportunity (“today”) to respond obediently to God’s voice. (Dr. George Guthrie)

III. Cultivating Faithfulness

A. Focus on Christ

1. Faithfulness is encouraged as we _____ on Christ and his _____ of faithfulness
 - a. Through _____, _____, _____, _____

B. Faithfulness Lived Out

1. Faithfulness _____ itself most clearly in an _____ all the way to the end of the path God has laid out for us
2. And particularly when it is lived out in the context of an _____ community of _____

C. Everyday Obedience

1. Obedience to God is lived out in the _____, often _____ experiences of life over a long period of _____
2. Faithfulness is _____
 - a. It is a _____

IV. Transition: From the Israelites to Today – Hebrews 4:1-2

A. The Promise of Rest Still Stands

1. Therefore...
 - a. Exhortation: Do not be _____ to have fallen _____
 - b. Basis: They (the Israelites) heard the same message but were _____

B. Serious Warning

1. “Be careful”
 - a. Literally – “Let us _____”
2. The author’s point
 - a. To “awaken godly fear in his hearers so that they will be aware of the seriousness of their situation and be moved to persevere” (P.T. O’Brien)
3. Reverence and awe
4. Engaging in worship

V. Verbal Analogy – Vv. 3-5

A. Who is the Rest For?

1. We who have _____
- B. Verbal Analogy: Rest (Psalm 95 and Genesis 2)
 1. Two quotes
 - a. Psalm 95
 - i. Reminds listeners of God's testimony
 - b. Genesis 2
 - i. Shows that the rest existed both _____ and _____ the time of the exodus
 2. Two emphases
 - a. God's promise of rest is not something of the past – it still _____
 - b. By its very nature, it involves cessation of _____
- VI. The Promise of Rest Still Stands – Vv. 6-11
 - A. Since Therefore...
 1. Implication of the verbal analogy
 - a. The promise of rest was not fulfilled by entrance into the Land
 - B. Line of Reasoning
 1. David lived long after the Israelites had come into the _____
 2. God, through David, offered _____ to those who believe in Ps. 95
 3. This promise was given because entrance into the Land did not _____ the original promise of rest
 4. Therefore there still _____ a rest for God's people, and the essence of that rest is resting from one's own work – as God did on the seventh day
 - C. "Today"
 1. This time in which we are living when the promise of rest is still _____
 - D. Joshua
 1. The Name
 2. Reading between the lines
 - E. So What is the Rest?
 1. Primarily the reality of _____
 2. Some would say
 - a. It is something we experience partially in Christ, but not fully
 3. Why I believe it primarily refers to heaven
 - a. It is a promise that _____

- b. They are exhorted to persevere in order to _____ the rest
- c. They are to “make every effort”

4. Focusing our thoughts on what awaits us

VII. The Power of God’s Word – Vv. 12-13

A. “For...”

- 1. The reason we are to “_____ every _____” to enter God’s rest is this...
 - a. God’s word can judge not just our _____ and _____, but also our _____, _____, and _____

B. God’s Word – *logos*

- 1. The message of God
- 2. In the past
- 3. Continuing now

C. “Alive”

- 1. It is not _____ or _____
- 2. Its source is the _____ God
- 3. It is powerful
 - a. To _____, _____, and _____
- 4. It is both _____ and _____ - _____

D. Active

- 1. Effective
 - a. Able to _____ the deepest recesses of our being
- 2. The heart
 - a. The seat of our _____ and _____
 - i. Do not _____ your heart
 - ii. Do not have a _____ and _____ heart
 - b. We now learn that God, through his word, _____ and _____ the thoughts and intentions of our hearts
- 3. Therefore, our hearts better be _____ with God

4. All of which means
 - a. God's Word has the power to _____ our _____

E. Encouragement: Then and Now

1. Picturing the original hearers
 - a. Torn between _____ on or _____ back
 - b. Powerful truth and exhortation to _____
 - c. To press on because
 - i. They will one day _____ before _____
 - ii. And even more, they will one day enter God's _____

VIII. Today If You Have Heard His Voice

A. Encouragement

1. To _____ in the faith
2. To fix your _____ on Jesus
3. To live in a community of believers that is _____

B. What If I Fear That I am Falling Short?