

SERMON OUTLINE

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 5

Hebrews 3 v1 - 19

Key Verses (words of Jesus) to have in mind as we study this chapter. See - Matt 13 v20 - 21 & Matt 10 v22.

Key Questions in setting the context of the chapter:-

A. WHO IS THE WRITER SPEAKING TO?

See - v1. Holy brothers and sisters refers to those who have been:-

(i) Made clean in the gospel of Christ. See - Jn 13 v10

(ii) Set apart for the service of Christ. The word 'holy' means - 'to set apart'.

B. WHAT IS THE WRITER SPEAKING ABOUT?

See - v1. But not just about confessing - about continuing. See the small but theologically significant word - "if" - v6 & v14.

Key Question - Are you continuing? Are you holding on and pressing forward, or are you giving up and turning back?

'I have decided to follow Jesus - no turning back, no turning back!'

How are we encouraged here (helped) not to give up and turn back?

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF FOCUSING ON THE SON OF GOD

See - v1. "Fix" - 'paying attention with a continuous observation and regard'.

Note the references in verses 2 to 6 about Moses, who in the eyes of the Jews was simply the greatest. See - Deut 34 v10 - 12. Key Point - Whilst at best Moses was the servant of God, Jesus was the Son of God. Was it the case that some of these believers had taken their eyes off of Jesus, and were now looking at and thinking about Moses?

Application - We can do that. Remember - even the very best God's servants will let you down!

Note (v1) - Jesus is our apostle in that He represents God to us. See - 1 v1 - 2a. Jesus is our priest in that He represents us to God. This is who we are to fix our eyes on. (Note - The best of God's servants will always point us to Jesus. Didn't Moses do that?)

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

See - v7 - 10. Note - The writer goes back to the pilgrimage of the people of Israel from Egypt to Canaan because that pilgrimage is a pattern (a picture) of the pilgrimage of the people of God today. As an example of this (and there are lots) see - 1 Cor 10.

In the wilderness the people grumbled and complained - and turned away from God. What did God say? See - v11. Note - Who was it that God said this to? See - v16 - 19. Note - Unbelief is refusing to hear God's word with the obedience of faith - trusting it and acting upon it.

Application (and a solemn one at that) - v12. Key Question - How do we hear God's word? See - v15.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF GATHERING WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD

See - v13.

Note (all of the above being said) - There will be times when we stumble and fall (and backslide), but focusing on the Son of God, listening to the word of God, and gathering with the people of God we can be sure that we will go on - we will continue!