



Hebrews Lesson 4 Chapter 4

A repeated theme throughout Scripture is that God uses those who know they are insufficient in themselves. Moses understood that he was inadequate for the job that God had called him to. Going back to Egypt and freeing his fellow Israelites from the most powerful ruler in the world at the time was not something Moses wanted or felt capable of doing. But he believed that God could use him to bring about their deliverance, so he obeyed. In his human weakness, wisdom told him God could do what looked impossible. Moses was a hero of faith because he believed God. Unfortunately, the people that Moses delivered didn't have the same fear of the Lord that Moses had. They wanted God to rescue and deliver them, but they had specific expectations of what that should look like. They wanted God to accomplish their plan for them, not accomplish His plan through them.

In chapter 3, the author identifies Moses as a faithful servant in obedience to God, but in comparison, Jesus is better in that He was a faithful Son. He moves from there to a stern warning about the people who

followed Moses, and the hardness of their hearts as they turned away from God. He wanted his audience to understand the parallel between the refusal of the Israelites in the desert to trust God with the ultimate falling away that took place, and their own potential falling away from the truth of Jesus. Because of the hardness of their hearts and their unbelief, the Israelites were doomed to fall in the desert and never see the promised land and the rest it could give them. And now the author's warning to these weak believers is the same, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me."

Chapter 4 continues with the warning about starting strong but losing strength and not finishing well (3:14). God promises a Sabbath rest for those who remain faithful to Him. The author wants them to understand what is at stake if they refuse His voice as those did who rebelled against Him. And he warns them..."Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience." Hebrews 4:11

REVIEW OF CHAPTER 3

"Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an _____, _____ heart, that _____ away from the living God. But _____ one another _____ after _____, as long as it is still called ' _____,' lest any one of you be _____ by the _____ of sin." Hebrews 3:12-13

6. *Read Psalm 95. The people at Moses time missed God's rest, but David in Psalm 95 offers encouragement of a rest from God still available. The author of Hebrews continues that thought in 4:6-11. What does he say we can rest from in vs. 10, and what would keep us from entering that rest in vs. 11? How would you define the rest the author is speaking of?*

7. *How do verses 12-13 warn us about disobedience?*



After giving severe warnings about falling into unbelief and disobedience, the author now returns to the benefit we have in a superior covenant in Jesus. The idea of the significance of the High Priest has already been introduced in Hebrews 2:17 and 3:1. The position of High Priest was essential to the service and worship of God in the old covenant. Therefore, to introduce Jesus as a superior High Priest was the next part of the author's argument.

8. *How is Jesus as a high priest different that the typical high priest? Vs. 14*

9. *How does verse 15 identify both the humanity and divinity of Jesus as high priest?*

10. *What effect should that reality have on us? Vs. 16*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
