

“The Community of Courage”

Session 9 – Hebrews 10:19-39

Bible Study Method:

Inductive Study

(Observation, Interpretation, Application)



INTRO – 3min

Say It:

For several sessions, we’ve looked at the 'shadows' and the 'finished work' of Jesus. Today, the author basically says, 'Because all that is true, here is how you must live.' We are moving from the academic study of the High Priest to a survival guide for our community. We’re going to look at the first major call to action: moving from being isolated individuals to being a 'community of courage' that refuses to shrink back in difficult times. (like their ongoing persecutions)

SECTION 1 – The 3 “Let Us” Commands

Hebrews 10:19-25

Read It: Hebrews 10:19-25

Mark It:

- Circle every time the author says, "Let us" (vs. 22, 23, 24).
- Underline the specific action that follows (e.g., draw near, hold unswervingly, consider).
- Draw a box around the words “since,” “having,” or “for.”
- Draw a line connecting each "Let us" to the phrase starting with "since", “having”, or "for" that precedes it. (Connecting circles to boxes.)

Discuss It:

- Look at the lines you drew. What do you notice about the relationship between the reason (the "since/having/for" part) and the response (the "Let us" part)?
- Verse 22 says we can enter with "full assurance." If you were physically walking into God's presence right now, what current or secret guilt would make you feel like you shouldn't be there? What does the "torn curtain" of Jesus' body (vs. 20) mean for that feeling?
- Notice that throughout this passage almost every reference to people is plural ("Let us"). Why is it more necessary to see our faith as a "team sport" rather than a solo project?

SECTION 2 – The Warning: Trampling Grace

Hebrews 10:26-31

Read It: Hebrews 10:26-31

Mark It:

- Draw a box around the three verbs in vs. 29: "trampled," "treated as unholy," and "insulted."

Discuss It:

- Look at those three words. They aren't just legal crimes; they are relational betrayals. How is this different than breaking a rule? Who is the specific "victim" of these three actions in the verse?
- For a Christ follower, the "hands of God" are usually described as a place of safety (John 10:28). However, verse 31 says it is a "dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." What determines whether God's hands are a place of "dread" or a place of "deliverance"?

SECTION 3 – Reflection – Remember the Cost

Say It:

Look at verse 29. Have there been times this week where you treated the "blood of the covenant" as common or "unholy" by ignoring God's presence?

Look at verse 32. Remember the "early days" when you first stood your ground for Jesus. What has changed between then and now? How can you make sure your "first love" doesn't become your "past love?"

SECTION 4 – The Endurance and Confidence

Hebrews 10:32-39

Read It: Hebrews 10:32-39

Mark It:

- Put an "X" over every reference to the believers past painful experiences (e.g., "stood your ground," "exposed to insult," "imprisonment," "confiscation of property").
- Draw a box around the words describing their future hope or possession (e.g., "better and lasting possessions," "rich reward," "what he has promised").
- Draw a bridge (an arched line) connecting each "X" to any box to show that they endured the pain because they were looking at the prize.

Discuss It:

- **Look at your "X's."** These are actual scars from their history—jail, public shaming, and losing their homes . Why does the author find it necessary to highlight these specific, painful memories right when they are tempted to quit?
- **Looking at the "Bridges" you drew, how does remembering a time you already survived a "great conflict" (vs. 32) give you specialized courage for your struggle today?**
- **Look at the very last verse (v. 39). It contrasts "those who shrink back" with "those who have faith." Why is it significant that the author uses the word "But we"?** How does viewing yourself as part of a "Community of Courage" change your approach to a trial compared to fighting it alone?

DO IT

Choose one or two options to practice this week.

- **The "Spur" Text:** Think of one person who hasn't been "meeting together" lately. Send them a text—not to shame them, but to "spur" them by telling them one specific Christ-like quality you see in them or why the group misses their presence. **Goal: To move from "neglecting" to "encouraging" (vs. 24-25).**
- **The "Muscle Memory" Audit:** Identify one area where you are currently tempted to "shrink back" (e.g., prayer, honesty, or a difficult conversation). Write down one time in the past when God was faithful. Carry that note as a reminder that you are a veteran, not a rookie. **Goal: To use past rescues as fuel for current storms (vs. 32)**
- **The "We" Prayer:** Commit to praying for the endurance of this group every morning. Instead of praying for your own "confidence," pray specifically for the person to your left in the circle to "hold unswervingly" to their hope. **Goal: To shift from a "me" mentality to a "we" mentality of faith (vs. 39).**

PRAY IT:

Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, we thank You that the 'wall' is gone and the curtain is torn; help us to walk through that open door today with the full assurance that You have already provided our welcome. We hear Your sobering warning, and we ask that the Holy Spirit would guard our hearts against treating Your sacrifice as a small thing. We choose relational loyalty over religious chores. When we are tempted to drift or shrink back, remind us of the 'scars' of our past rescues—and the muscle memory we have from the times You have already proven Your faithfulness to us. We thank You that we do not have to endure this life as isolated individuals, but as a community of courage. Help us to stay side by side and to spur one another on until the very end. We are not those who shrink back; we are those who believe. Help us choose to live out of that truth. Amen.

A Call to Persevere in Faith

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him who said,

“It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” (*quoted from Deut. 32:35*)

and again,

“The Lord will judge his people.” (*quoted from Deut. 32:36, Ps 135:14*)

³¹It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³²Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.” (*quoted from Isaiah 26:20, Hab 2:3*)

³⁸And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.” (*quoted from Hab 2:4*)

³⁹But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

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