

ENTER GOD'S REST – p. 2

Hebrews 4:11-13

A Two-Part Message

We are looking at the second major point of this letter/sermon of Hebrews – Jesus is greater than Moses

As we unpack chapter 4 we see a two part message –

-Part 1 – “An Invitation to Rest”

-Part 2 – “An Exhortation to not miss it”

These two parts are presented in verse 1 –

-v. 1a – “*Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands...*” – that’s the “Invitation to rest.”

-v1b – “*...let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it*” – that’s the “Exhortation to not miss it”!

Read Hebrews 4:11-13

Pray

How could this rest be missed?

1 – By failing to enter

-This is the most difficult interpretive issue of chapter 4 –

-We know from 4:10 that we have entered God’s rest by resting in God.

-v. 10 – “*...whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.*”

-Then verse 11 turns around and says “*Let us therefore strive to enter that rest...*”

-So, in what sense do we enter by striving?

-By refusing to follow the natural inclination of your heart which is to establish your own righteousness instead of trusting in God’s.

-We are striving against our efforts to justify ourselves.

-Dr. Al Mohler –

“We must not be like the Israelites in the wilderness. We must strive to enter God’s rest. In other words, we must work at resting. This means we must work *against* all our efforts to prove our righteousness. We must strive *against* all our efforts to justify ourselves.”

-Think about those Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea –

-They could respond in one of three ways -

-They could say, “Those Canaanites are giants and we don’t stand a chance!”

-They are looking at their problem and measuring it according to human ability resulting in fear – that’s not faith.

-They could say, “Those Canaanites are giants but we are quick and clever and we will figure out a way to beat them!”

-This also is not faith because it is still measuring the problem to human ability – that’s not faith! (And it’s delusional!)

-They could say, “Those Canaanites are giants to us but they are grasshoppers to God! God will fight for us! We can fight in the power of God!”

-That’s faith – Because it is looking away from human ability and trusting in the promises and power of God

-So, strive to enter by fighting the natural, human urge to look to human effort and not rest in God’s work.

2 – By disobedience

-v. 11b – *“...so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.”*

-What is the “same sort of disobedience”?

-The kind of disobedience exhibited by the Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea –

-Look back at 3:16-19

-It is the kind of disobedience that is the fruit of unbelief.

3 – By failing to hear God’s Word

-When seen in the context of Hebrews 3 and 4 verse 12 makes all the sense in the world –

-What was original problem presented?

-A failure to hear God’s voice – 3:7-8 – *“Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion...”*

-v. 12 – *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

Application for Life

This is of the most important nature –

-v. 13 – *“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

The warning to not miss God’s eternal rest is put in the severest of terms!

-There is a promise of rest and a promise of judgement for those who miss it!