

HEBREWS 3

FIRST DAY: Introduction

It is dangerous to resist the conviction of God's Word! Each time someone resists the prompting and authority of God's Word, their heart hardens more and more against it. Those who continue to harden their hearts will never enter the promises and good plans of God.

The author of Hebrews illustrated this fact by citing the example of the Israelites who were led out of Egypt by Moses. Though these people heard God's Word, saw His miracles, and experienced God's power, they continually refused to believe God's Word. The consequence of their unbelief was that their generation perished in the wilderness and never entered the Promised Land.

A greater danger exists for anyone who resists the conviction of Jesus, the Son of God, who is greater than Moses. Hardening your heart to Jesus' voice not only keeps you from God's promises, but has eternal consequences as well. Therefore, it is essential that we guard our hearts from resisting God's Word because of unbelief!

*Ask God to keep your heart receptive
and tender toward His Word.*

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 3:1–4

1. Having established our kinship with Jesus through the great salvation He accomplished, how did the author address the believers?
Hebrews 3:1a

a. *Holy* means *set apart, consecrated to God*. Why is holiness important for us as believers? See also Ephesians 1:4 and 1 Peter 1:15–16.

2. According to Hebrews 3:1b, what have believers become *partakers* of?

a. Link this with 1 Peter 2:9 and write what it means to you to have such a *calling*.

3. In Hebrews 3:1c–2, the author exhorted us to *consider* Jesus in light of the greatness of all He has done. The Greek word for *consider* implies close scrutiny so as to learn and fully understand. With this in mind, take a moment to *consider* and comment on Jesus as:

a. *Apostle*—One sent with a commission (See John 3:17, 17:3)

b. *High Priest of our confession* (See Hebrews 2:17)

(1) Use Romans 10:9–10 to summarize our *confession*

c. *Faithful to Him who appointed Him* (See John 8:29)

4. The author of Hebrews continued to compare Jesus and Moses (Hebrews 3:2b). Hebrews 3:3–4 (NLT) says, *But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.* Why does Jesus deserve far more glory than Moses?

a. Next to Abraham, Moses was the most revered figure to the Hebrews, having given Israel the law. How does this validate the declaration of Hebrews 3:3–4?

5. What are your thoughts as you *consider* Jesus?

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 3:5–6

1. The author of Hebrews pointed out the faithfulness of both Moses and Jesus. Observe this by filling in the chart on the following page:

| QUESTION | MOSES (Hebrews 3:5a) | JESUS (Hebrews 3:6a) |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| In whose <i>house</i> was he/ He faithful? | | |
| What was he/He faithful <i>as</i> ? | | |

- a. What does this comparison affirm about Jesus?
2. According to Hebrews 3:5b, what purpose did Moses' faithfulness serve? See also 1 Corinthians 10:11.
 3. In Hebrews 3:6b, the author declared that *we are* part of Jesus' household. Link this with 1 Peter 2:5 to describe our role as members of His *house*.

- a. What does it mean to you to be part of His *house*?
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4. Observe in Hebrews 3:6c how we confirm that *we are* part of Jesus' *house*. Share a way you are:
 - a. Holding fast your *confidence*

 - b. *Rejoicing in hope*
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5. As God's servant, Moses represented the law which pointed us to our need for a Savior—Jesus Christ. Read the following Scriptures and note how they attest to the superiority of Jesus:
 - a. John 8:35–36

 - b. Romans 8:3

 - c. Galatians 3:23–25

6. Take a moment to consider all that Christ has done for you. How does this strengthen your *confidence*?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 3:7–13

1. Having demonstrated Jesus' superiority to Moses and the law, the author instructed believers on how to behave in light of this. He cited Psalm 95:7–11, which recounts Israel's rebellion against God and Moses in the wilderness. Use this reference in Hebrews 3:7–11 to comment on what these phrases mean to you:
 - a. Hearing God's voice (verses 7–8)
 - b. Rebelling against God's voice (verses 8–9)
 - c. God's assessment of *rebellion* (verse 10)
 - d. God's response to *rebellion* (verse 11)

(1) Why is it significant that the *Holy Spirit* said these things? (verse 7a)

(2) How would you diagnose Israel's failure?

2. In Hebrews 3:12, what does the word *beware* suggest to you?

a. What do we need to *beware* of?

(1) Why is this a danger to avoid?

b. Concerning *unbelief*, Charles Spurgeon said: *Unbelief is calling God a liar, and what could be worse?*²⁵ Take a moment to consider and comment on this assessment of unbelief.

(1) How is this a warning to you?

3. Because of the seriousness of *unbelief*, what are we as believers to do? Hebrews 3:13a

a. What does the word *today* convey to you?

(1) What word of exhortation would you give to someone who is in danger of *departing from the living God*?

(a) Link this with James 5:20. What do you see?

b. What does Hebrews 3:13b identify as the cause of a *hardened* heart?

(1) List some of the things that cause your heart to *harden*.

4. What precautions can you take to *beware* of a hard heart?

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 3:14–19

1. Hebrews 3:14 (NLT) says, *For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.* How does this promise:
 - a. Exhort you
 - b. Comfort you
 - c. Inspire you
 - d. Bless you
2. To emphasize his point, in Hebrews 3:15 the author repeated part of the warning of Psalm 95. Why do you think this warning bears repeating?

3. In Hebrews 3:16–18, the author explained the passage he quoted in Hebrews 3:7–11. Note that those who rebelled were the same people who were delivered from Egypt. How does this underscore the danger of *unbelief*?
 - a. What happened to these rebels? (verse 17)
 - b. Why were they *not* able to *enter*? (verse 18)
4. From Hebrews 3:19 identify the root cause for this tragic end.
 - a. Share a way you can safeguard against *unbelief*.
5. How do you desire to respond to God's voice?

f. The hardened heart

g. Rest

2. Note that the author used the word *today* three times. How does this emphasis speak to you?

3. Recall the author's challenge to *exhort one another daily* (Hebrews 3:13). Why is this important?

a. How are you inspired to *exhort* others concerning *Our Great Faith*?