

A Hard Heart Makes For A Hard Life H e b r e w s 3 : 1 - 1 1

V e r s e 1

...holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling...

- Our identity and reality in Christ
 - We have been made holy
 - We are participating in something heavenly (other-worldly) (I.e. Salvation)

...consider Jesus, the Apostle and high Priest of our confession.

- *Consider Jesus*—
 - When confronted with difficulties that make it hard to be faithful (original context extrapolated)
- *the Apostle*—
 - This is the only time in the NT Jesus is called this
 - The term/title denotes one who is sent (*αποστολος*)
 - The original disciples were sent by Jesus
 - The term functioned as a title when they were recognized as the founding leaders of the Christian movement
 - Jesus here is recognized as the ultimate founder of Christianity—sent by the Father
 - **The point being:** The validity and reality of our faith rests upon Him
- *and high priest*—
 - We already spoke about the significance of this term last week (and will do so more in later chapters)
 - It pictures Jesus as the one who *reconciles* us to God *mediates* between us and God
 - **The point being:** We are accepted by, and in relationship with God because of the work of Christ.
- *of our confession*—
 - *ομολογια*—statement of allegiance¹
 - Baptism is a form of this
 - Galatians 2:20

The point of this first verse is:

¹ Frederick William Danker, *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 709

- “Though you are experiencing hard times because of your allegiance to Jesus, just remember who He is and what He has done.”

The point of the following verses (2-6) is:

- “You have never known, nor will you ever find, a more faithful leader, or a better thing to be led into, than Jesus and the heavenly calling of salvation in Him.”

For the author to support his claim before a Jewish audience he has \to deal with Moses.

V e r s e 2

The author begins his comparison of Moses and Jesus, not by discounting Moses in any way, but rather by saying that both of them were faithful.

- *...His house.*—
 - God’s house in this context/verse = Israel
 - Moses was faithful as a leader/deliverer of Israel
 - Jesus was faithful as the Deliverer/Savior of Israel
 - But there is a key difference between the two...

V e r s e s 3 - 4

Jesus is *worthy of more glory than Moses*

- Because the one who builds the house is greater than the house itself
 - Cf. Hebrews 1:2; Colossians 1:16; I Corinthians 8:6; John 1:3
 - Jesus is the *builder of all things*

V e r s e s 5 - 6

Moses was faithful in God’s Israel *as a servant* of God

- And all the work he did was looking forward to the fulfillment and full explanation of all things—Jesus (Incomplete without Christ)
 - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - Colossians 2:17
 - things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to* (NIV = reality is found in) *Christ.*

Moses was faithful in God’s Israel *as a servant* of God, but Jesus was faithful *as the Son* of God

- **The point** is (and everyone understands) that a son has a higher position in a household than a servant
 - By way of analogy, Jesus is greater than Moses, even though both were faithful

Notice the movement here:

- *whose house we are*
 - We (Christians) are the household of God

- **Meaning** the work of God, the concern of God, that which God maintains, and there in which God dwells

○ **I Peter 2:5, 9-10**

Don't miss this:

- We are God's house *if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.*
- We must continue in belief of Christ as the Apostle and high priest
 - I.e. The One sent by God as the only **mediator** and **reconciler** between God and man
- If we reject Jesus as such, the passage seems to say that we are not the house of God

The poignancy of this is that the original audience was experiencing tremendous difficulty which was making it hard for them to *hold fast* and remain faithful to their *confession*

- **Hebrews 2:1**
- They are being lovingly **warned** here again (and will be many other times in the book)

We do not know the same sort of difficulties they were experiencing (persecution), but we do know difficulties

- The unfortunate human tendency is to *loosen up* when we should be *holding tight*
 - Health problems
 - Relational problems
 - Financial difficulties
 - Fear, worry, instability, and doubt
 - The tendency is to second guess God and begin to do things our own way
 - This is common and destructive
 - And so the repeated warning

V e r s e s 7 - 1 1

The warning: *Do not harden your hearts*

- A standard Old Testament term for “stubborn refusal to obey”

The Quotation: **Psalm 95**

- Verses refer to **Exodus 17:1-7** (One Israel's initial acts of defiance)
- **Numbers 14** (Israel's ultimate act of defiance)

E x o d u s 1 7 : 1 - 7

Verse 2

- We see throughout the Old Testament that when Israel rebelled against God's leader it was rebellion against God. (Cf. **1 Samuel 8:7**)

Verse 3

- Losing sight of what God was doing. (Can't see the forest through the trees)
- An insulting lack of faith after all God had done (Cf. [Matthew 14:22](#))

Verse 6

- The kindness of the Lord

Verse 7

- Massah = test
- Meribah = quarrel

This was the beginning of the hardening of their hearts toward God and His plan for them

This hardening would prove ruinous in [Numbers 14](#)

N u m b e r s 1 4

Context (Chapter 13)

Verses 1-4

- We would be better off dead (v. 2)
- Questioning the Lord's character (v. 3)
- It would be better for us to go back to slavery (v. 3-4)

Verse 11

- Their disbelief didn't make any sense

Verse 20-24

- The Lord forgave them (v. 20)
 - **Forgiveness does not fix everything** (22-23)
 - [Cf. 26-35](#) (Answer to their cry in verse 2^e)
- Last ditch efforts
 - [verses 39-45](#)
 - They realized their wrongs—
 - they even confess them—
 - but now they try to deal with the divine consequences with their own means

- The sins of the fathers—caused the kids to suffer consequences too.

- The Exodus Generation and The Joshua Generation
 - Which will you choose to act like in difficult times?
 - *Consider Jesus...* (Hebrews 3:1)

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...” (Hebrews 3:7)

We need to think about these life situations... and if the Lord is speaking to you today, do not harden your hearts.

Hardening of the heart is progressive

A hard heart makes for a hard life

Stick with Jesus in difficult times... especially when things don't make sense

- Times of doubt
- Difficulty
- Uncertainty

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

- Waiting

Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

He gives strength to the weary, And to {him who} lacks might He increases power.

Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly,

Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up {with} wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

His track record is your future assurance.

You will not find one more faithful, loving, or powerful leader