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Group Questions



Overtime Podcast

"Greatest Messenger"

1. Who wrote the book of Hebrews?

Hebrews 2:3b (ESV) "It [What we heard] was declared at first by the Lord [Jesus], and it was attested to us [author included] by those who heard [...]"

2. Who is the audience?

- a. Jewish Christians - A minority of a minority

3. Why is the author writing?

- a. The audience was suffering and needed encouragement and warnings.

Hebrews 10:32-34 (NIV) "Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You 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."

- b. Some in the audience were **drifting** away from Jesus.

Hebrews 2:1 (ESV) "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we **drift** away from it."

- i. Drifting is unintentional movement away from safety or a harbor because the boat is unmoored and no one is paying attention.

4. The Anatomy of Drifting: A Story from Our Family

- a. Anchor poorly: A rope to coral
- b. Don't pay attention: A false sense of security
- c. Unintentional movement: "Are those mountains getting farther away?"
- d. Panic and inability: Much effort without progress

5. Thesis: Don't drift!

- a. The Dangers of Drifting
- b. The Signs of Drifting
- c. What to Do if You've Drifted

6. The Dangers of Drifting

Hebrews 1:1-4 (ESV) "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs."

a. Jesus is superior to angels. Why does that matter?

- i. In Jewish tradition the Mosaic law was declared by angels (Deut 33:2)

Hebrews 10:4 (NIV) "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."

- ii. The old covenant points forward to the new covenant.

Hebrews 2:1-3 (ESV) “Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?”

- b. **Jesus is the greatest messenger of the greatest message.**
 - i. If you drift from Jesus there is no other salvation!
- c. **What truths should I “pay much closer attention to”?**
 - i. Read Hebrews 2:14-18

7. The Signs of Drifting

- a. “Are those mountains getting further away?”

Hebrews 12:14-17 (ESV) “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.”

- b. **Signs of drift:** 1) Root of bitterness & 2) Sexual immorality

8. What to Do if You’ve Drifted

Hebrews 10:24-27 (ESV) “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.”

- a. How are we to aid one another in staying anchored to Jesus?
 - i. Stir one another to love and good works, don’t neglect to meet together
- b. **Warning:** “If we go on sinning deliberately” - willful sinning and refusing to repent - this reveals that these people have not genuinely embraced the gospel in a way that has resulted in a life of faith, obedience, and the bearing of fruit (ESV Note).

9. Conclusion: If you drift and then return, change how you anchor!

- a. New priorities, New habits, New obedience
- b. Opposite of drift (unintentional movement) = run with endurance (intentional movement).

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Ice Breaker: When you think of drifting what comes to mind?

Main Passages: Hebrews 1:1-4, Hebrews 2:1-4

1. What do we learn about Jesus from Hebrews 1:1-4?
2. In Heb. 1-2, Jesus is shown to be superior to the angels. Why does that matter?
3. In Heb. 2:1-4, we are commanded to pay attention lest we drift. What are the dangers of drifting spiritually?
4. What are some causes of drifting?
5. Is there any drift from Jesus and His ways that is happening in your life?
6. Read Heb. 10:24-27. How can we help each other not drift?
 - a. Get practical. What can you do this week for another person?
7. In the story from the sermon, those drifting needed help from the outside. What kind of help from the outside do you need to help you from drifting?