

Discipleship Series Week 2
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Hebrews is about conquering the "if"!

DISCIPLE is from the Greek word *mathētēs* derived from the root “math,” the “mental effort needed to think something through.” Used 261 times in the Gospels and Acts, almost always in plural (“Let Us”—‘LETTUCE!!’ a salad of many parts make up the whole).

God speaks to the whole community of individuals just delivered from slavery as though they are together as one person: “Now then, if you (plural) will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you (plural) shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you (plural) shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons (heirs-plural) of Israel.”

This emphasis is even more strongly made under the New Covenant as believers are baptized into Christ as members of His body. More often than not the “you” in NT writing refers to a whole community addressed as one unit. Our new world desperately needs old-style Christianity... *mathētēs*.

The “if” is the sticking point between promise and inheritance! Hebrews is about conquering the "if"!

Hebrews uses 2 parables as illustrations of moving onto perfection:

1. Build a House
 - a. 1 Corinthians 3:11 “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
 - b. Foundation in 1 Corinthians 3 is the Greek word *themelios*, which refers to a substructure—something put down as an undergirding for what would be built; the rudiments, first principles. *Themelios* actually comes from a root word that means to put or place something down, to establish something and fix it firmly.
 - c. The wise man builds his house where? On a ROCK. Why? Because storms, wind, rain, **will come against the house.**
2. Run a race
 - a. 1 Corinthians 9:24 “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”

Hebrews 1:1-4 DP Greek:

In many parts and in many ways of old, God, having spoken to the fathers in the prophets, at the end of these days spoke to us in a Son whom He appointed heir of all things through whom also he made the eons. Who being the radiant effulgence of his glory and the exact representation of his substance, he carries all things by the word of his power. He made purification of sins; he sat down at the right hand of the majesty in the high places, having become so much superior to the angels, as he has inherited a name that is more excellent than theirs.

He SPOKE (saying, motto, proverb, maxim, adage, aphorism, verdict, sentence, judgment made by a jury decree, a breath-filled, living communication): **NOW IN SON.**

GOD has summed up everything he has ever said or done or will say or do in SON.

Like a Cookie – The first BITE is the same as the whole. We have to chew on this first bite of the cookie!

The Eternal Nature of Jesus

When Did Jesus become a Son?

1. Isa. 9:6
 - a. Unto us a Child is Born (mortal in the Incarnation with finite life-span of approximately 33 yrs)
 - b. A Son is given (Eternal, without beginning or end, in the Father as God Himself in existence before the worlds were created and the Son through whom, for whom, and to whom all things were created and exist)
2. Luke 1:31 –
 - a. To Mary: “You shall conceive and bear a SON.”
3. Matt 1:20—
 - a. To Joseph: “That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”
4. Isa. 7:14 fulfilled
 - a. “The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us).”
5. Isa. 9:6 The Son is, always was, always will be “God Almighty, Eternal Father”
 - a. Matt 21, Mark 12, Luke 20 – The Parable of the Tenants
 - i. Pharisees challenge Jesus’ authority.
 - ii. He asks if the authority of John’s message of baptism was “from heaven or from men?” (Contrasts eternal with temporal, time, space)
 - iii. Parable has two parts – the first in which the Son of Man experiences death, the second in His glory.
 1. “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”
 - b. Matt. 22:41-45 , A similar confrontation
 - i. “Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question: 42 “What do you think about [p]the Christ, whose son is He?” They said to Him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet”’? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his son?” No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.”
 - ii. Quotes Ps. 110 – which is also quoted in Hebrews 1:13, speaking of the Eternal Son.

Jesus is either a Sanctuary or a Snare – There is no other option!

1. **Isa. 8:9-16:** “Be broken, O peoples, and be shattered; And give ear, all remote places of the earth. Gird yourselves, yet be shattered; Gird yourselves, yet be shattered. “Devise a plan, but it will be thwarted; State a proposal, but it will not stand, For God is with us” (see Ps. 2). For thus the Lord spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, “You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy,

and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. "It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. "Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. "Many will stumble over them, Then they will fall and be broken; They will even be snared and caught." Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

2. **Isa. 28:16**, "Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed."
3. **Ps. 118:22**, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone."
4. **Daniel 2:34**, You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them." (Seen by Nebuchadnezzar and revealed to Daniel).
5. **Isa. 51:1**, ""Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the Lord: **Look to the rock from which you were hewn** and to the quarry from which you were dug."
 - a. Side note –Nazareth was the site of a quarry of white limestone used in the Temple. Joseph was a carpenter – worked with stone and wood, but predominately stone.

Jesus our Foundation

1. Revelation of Jesus as our FOUNDATION leads us immediately to various specific revelations in Scripture concerning the ROCK
 - a. 1 Cor. 10:4 – The Rock that followed them, they drank from this Rock.
 - b. Isa 28:16 – tested stone/costly stone/cornerstone, laid in Zion – the heavenly city sought by Abraham
 - c. Ps. 118:22 – Rejected by builders
 - d. Daniel 2:34 – Cut without hands – HE is UNCREATED.
 - i. GIVEN (eternally)
 - ii. BORN (temporally in space and time)
 - iii. The ETERNAL ONE "flung out of heaven" who struck the feet (foundation) of kingdoms of this world and toppled them.
 - e. Zechariah – Perfectly "straight" – you can build on it; there is not another to build on; the foundation is a Person: the Eternal SON.
 - f. Matt. 11:27, "

Must Be Revealed Through Faith:

1. The BOOK of Hebrews will be talking about eternal realities intersecting with time/space continuum of past, present, future, realities not able to be seen with the human eye and not able to be perceived with human heart and mind except by revelation through faith that comes from one source: the WORD and his word. That's why a main theme is FAITH.
2. The one who comes to God MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS & THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM:

3. It's not "God" in general according to whatever image man may contrive. This is THE GOD revealed IN SCRIPTURE:
 - a. Matthew 11:27, "All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father, nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."
 - b. Hebrews 2:8-9 "For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus (incarnation), because of the suffering of death (conditions by which he inherited) crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God (free determination & act) He might taste death for everyone (becoming both priestly gift and offerer of that gift required to reconcile man to God)."
4. Scripture points to, culminates, and reconfirms that this "GOD" is Jesus Christ. God SAYING in a Son.
 - a. Therefore, in order to know God at all we must know the God of the Bible made manifest & demonstrated in Jesus, Pre-Incarnate Son, Incarnate Son of Man, Crucified Lord, Resurrected King & High Priest, & Judge who is coming again.
 - b. Once we begin to "know" Him through His word we must **mix the word with faith** in order to enter the "rest" promised in which we find our inheritance.

Biblical Definition of Faith:

1. One of the few things the Bible ever "defines"
 - a. Heb. 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."
 - b. 5287 hypóstasis : (hoop-os'-tas-is) ("title of possession") (from 5259 /hypó, "under" and 2476 /hístēmi, "to stand") – properly, (to possess) standing under a guaranteed agreement ("title-deed"); (figuratively) "title" to a promise or property, i.e. a legitimate claim (because it literally is, "under a legal-standing") – entitling someone to what is guaranteed under the particular agreement.
 - i. Short Definition: assurance, substance, reality
 - ii. Definition: (lit: an underlying), (a) confidence, assurance, (b) a giving substance (or reality) to, or a guaranteeing, (c) substance, reality.
 - a. For the believer, 5287 /hypóstasis ("title of possession") is the Lord's guarantee to fulfill the faith He inbirths (cf. Heb 11:1 with Heb 11:6).
 - b. Indeed we are only entitled to what God grants faith for (Ro 14:23).
 - c. John 1:12, "For as many as received him, to them he gave authority to become the sons of God."

SONSHIP:

1. Jesus learned obedience as a son, earned the name and inheritance rightfully his by meeting the conditions necessary for man to be reconciled to God, gave that inheritance and name to us in the exchange at the cross, became our mediator, High Priest. We receive the fullness of that inheritance by faith as we meet the conditions.
2. Hebrews 12:7-9: We all should welcome God's discipline as the validation of authentic sonship. For if we have never once endured his correction it only proves we are strangers and not sons. God corrects us throughout our lives for our own good, giving us an invitation to share his holiness—all discipline seems to be more pain than pleasure at the time, yet later it will produce a transformation of character bringing a harvest of righteousness and peace to those who yield to it (Passion Translation).
3. Unconditional grace: "free" is not talking about price but its talking about freedom of God to grant it of His own nature, person, and will (Karl Barth).
4. Already we are getting into the fine print of what's in the WILL Jesus left us in his death: a NEW will (testament)
 - a. If you never "read" it & don't know what's "in" it you may do what Esau did...have no respect for it, give it up, sell it off for something temporary, and end up like Esau begging to get it back—but once Isaac gave it, in spite of Esau's tears it was impossible to reclaim it. He was not a faithful son—He didn't value what his father had to pass on to him.
 - b. Heb 12:16-17 See to it that NONE OF YOU are like him: sold his rights as the firstborn son for a single meal!
 - c. Frankly if there had been any inheritance to be had outside of what Isaac possessed to give Esau wouldn't have deserved it anyway.

Take Away Week 2:

"We are not of those shrink back but who press on to salvation" (Heb 10:34-36).