

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 4:1-13 we are shown 3 implications of the wilderness wanderers not being able to enter God's rest because of their unbelief (3:19).

- I. The promise of entering God's rest still stands, so let us not disobey as if we've not entered it (v. 1).
 - A. For we have received the same good news:
 1. The wanderers did not receive it by faith so they failed to enter (v. 2).
 2. We believed and entered that rest (v.3).
 - B. For the promised rest is the same (vs. 4-5).
- II. Yes, the promise of God's rest remains for us.
 - A. Though the wanderers failed to enter because of disobedience, some still need to enter while it's today (vs. 6-7).
 - B. Joshua couldn't give God's promised rest, so there remains a Sabbath rest for God's people (vs. 8-9).
 - C. Those who enter God's rest also rest from their works as God did (v. 10).
- III. **So then, let us strive to enter that rest so no one falls by way of disobedience (v. 11).**
 - A. **For God's word is active & effective (so don't disobey it) (v. 12).**
 - B. **For God is the all-seeing judge (so you can't hide) (v. 13).**

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 7, 2020

Passage: Hebrews 4:11-13

Memory Passage: Hebrews 4:9-13

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 4:1-11.** Briefly (i.e. in a paragraph) summarize what you learned last week from 4:1-11.

(b) Explain how v. 11 serves as both a conclusion to 1-11 and the beginning of what follows (notice vs. 1, 6, & 11 begin with “therefore,” v. 12 begins with “For,” and v. 13 begins with “and”).

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 4:11-13.** To what does “the word of God” refer (i.e. Jesus [cf. Heb. 1:2; John 1:1] or God’s revelation in Scripture)? Defend your answer from the context.

(b) In the context of Hebrews 3-4, what specific “word of God” is living, active, sharp, piercing, and discerning?

(c) Consider the first 2 adjectives our writer uses to describe the word of God “living” & “active.” Explain (1) what each means with regard to the word of God, and (2) why each is important, both in the context of our author’s argument in Hebrews and for you today (cf. Deut. 8:3; Ps. 119:25; Is. 55:11; John 6:63; Heb. 3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22; [the Greek word translated “active” means “effective, active, powerful” and is only used here, 1 Cor. 16:9 & Philemon 6]).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 4:11-13.** Consider the next 2 adjectives our writer uses to describe the word of God, “sharp” & “piercing.” Explain (1) what each means with regard to the word of God, and (2) why each is important both in the context of our author’s argument in Hebrews and for you today (cf. Is. 49:2-3; Eph. 6:17; Rev. 1:16; 2:12; 19:15).

(b) The metaphors “to the division of soul and of spirit” and “of joints and of marrow” are not meant to make us think of anatomy or any division of our spiritual person. They are intended to make us think of the sharp, piercing power of God’s word. With this clarification in mind, explain what our author intends us to understand about God’s word through their use.

(c) What does the “heart” represent, and how does God’s word discern “the thoughts and intentions of the heart?”

(d) Summarize what our author intends us to understand about God’s word from v. 12 and why it matters to you.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb 4:11-13.** What does v. 13 tell us about God’s character and work?

(b) What does v. 13 tell us about you (and all humans)?

(c) Is the idea that humans are “naked and exposed” intended as a physical or spiritual description? Explain your answer.

(d) What does v. 13 have to do with v. 12 (note the “And” with which it begins), and how do both verses (12 & 13) support the command in v. 11 (“Let us . . . For . . . And . . .”)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 4:11-13.** Considering the word of God is living, active, sharp, piercing, and discerning, and that God is our righteous and holy judge from whom nothing is hidden and who uses the word to reveal our hearts, rate, on a scale of 1-10 your activity with, participation in, and submission to God and His word in the following areas: (1) corporate worship (including how you prepare for, receive, and apply the word as you sing it and hear it preached, read, & prayed), (2) private reading and study (including meditation & memorization), (3) family reading and study, (4) church-sponsored ways to dig deeper (such as bible studies, Wednesday night gatherings, Sunday school, fellowship, etc.), and (5) Discipleship (both as a disciple-maker and one who is discipled, and yes, according to the Bible you should be regularly involved in both).

(b) Write down at least 5 concrete ideas you will implement immediately to improve your submission to God’s word.

(c) If you are one who has entered God’s rest, then you must also be one who is endeavoring to be obedient so as to not seem like one who has never entered God’s rest. Given our author’s continued emphasis on community in this sermon on Psalm 95 (3:12-13, 4:1 & 4:11), how are you involved in the community of BCC with regard to making sure you, and everyone else who joins as a Covenant Member, are those that do not shrink back but continues to strive to enter God’s rest?

DATE: June 7, 2020

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