

Let Us...Draw Near... Hold Fast...
Consider How.
Hebrews 10:19-25

TEXT: Hebrews 10:19-25

DATE: 9/17/23

TOPIC: Our Priest and Our Call

LESSON: One

Hebrews 10:19–25 “Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Understanding the Text:

- _____.

- _____.

“Therefore” – conjunction used to state the conclusion of a previous matter.

- _____.

“brethren”: Jews stuck in the OT system of thinking.

Summary of the New Way in Jesus:

1. Believers have confident _____ to God through the sacrifice of Jesus, which He accomplished on earth in the flesh (v.19-20).

“19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,”

“confidence” – the freedom to do or say without hesitation of being wrong.

“by the blood of Jesus” – His substitutionary atonement.

What exactly did Jesus’ death provide?

“inaugurated” – initiated, put into effect.

“a new and living way” – a recently made and active.

“through the veil, that is, His flesh”

Matthew 27:51 “And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.”

Point: through Jesus we have free present and future access by a new and living way to the best thing in the universe: God Himself.

2. We have the _____ high priest, who rules over us and represents us before God (v.21).

“21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,”

“great” – refers to the rank and quality of Christ’s ministry being greater than all before.

Hebrews 7:23–27 “The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”

“over the house of God” – ruling as head over God’s household.

Point: our representation before God is as complete and perfect as our great High Priest Jesus, which defines the nature of our relationship with God.

Three Expected Responses to the New Way:

1. _____ near to God (v.22).

“22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

What does it mean to draw near to God?

“draw near” – to approach or come up to.

How should we draw near?

“with a sincere heart” – true thoughts and affections, with no ulterior motives.

“full assurance of faith” – complete and total persuasion in trusting God.

Why are these things important in coming to God?

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

Those who can come near to God in faith have experienced two things in this text:

- “having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience”

“sprinkled” – 3x in Hebrews. OT imagery of cleansing.

Hebrews 9:13–14 “For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

- “and our bodies washed with pure water”

A new covenant picture of spiritual cleansing (Eze. 36:25-26)

Point: only those cleansed through Jesus can draw near to God in fellowship.

2. Hold _____ to the truth of hope in Jesus, without wavering (v.23).

“23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;”

“hold fast” – to retain or hold down. Present tense.

“confession of our hope” – words spoken in agreement with a body of truth in expectation of it being true.

Hebrews 3:1 “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession”

“without wavering” – no bending.

“He who promised is faithful”

3. _____ how we can stir up one another to live as we should for Christ (v.24-25).

“24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,”

“let us consider” – to give careful and intentional thought.

“stimulate” – to incite, to irritate (negative); to cause to act.

What are we to stimulate one another to do?

- “love” – affectionate care and sacrifice from the example of Christ.
- “good deeds” – work done for the glory of God in alignment with His will.

Two contrasting modifiers (v.25)

“25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

- **Not _____ our gathering together.**

“forsaking” – leave behind, abandon.

“assembling” – to meet together.

“habit of some” – *ethos*: custom, normal behavior

- Encouraging each other _____ more as you see Christ's coming approaching.

"encouraging" – to come to one's side to help; exhort towards the right way.

"all the more" – increasingly so in repetition and intensity.

"the day drawing near"" – Christ's coming approaching

Why should the imminent return of Christ greatly increase our encouraging of one another?

Romans 13:11–14 *"Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."*

Point: believers are mutually _____ to encourage and stimulate one another to live as we should knowing our Lord could come at any moment.

Discussion Questions:

1. As a group, explain what it means that Jesus is our high priest. How should the reality that Christ is our great high priest influence our relationship and interaction with God?
2. In your life, what does it mean to “hold fast the confession of our hope?” What might the consequences be if one doesn’t hold fast?
3. How would our gatherings together be changed if we were carefully considering how to stir one another to “love and good deeds?” What keeps us from considering one another?
4. Why should the coming of Christ shape and increase our encouraging one another? Why is increased encouragement important to the body?
5. In what ways is abandoning the gathering of the saints harmful? What does forsaking the assembling together look like?
6. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What does this passage say about the body of Christ and our relationship with one another?

Blanks: Placement, Context, Audience, access, superior, Draw, firmly, Contemplate, forsaking, increasingly, dependent

