



# Are You Ready To Run? The Race Marked Out

Hebrews 10:19-39

## A Winning Strategy

October 26, 2014

### MEMORY VERSE:

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV-2011)

### OVERVIEW

Jesus, our high Priest, offering His blood as atonement for our sins, has made it possible for us to be confident in our communion with God. On the basis of Christ work we have a responsibility to live out our commitment in faith, hope and love. This is to be done in the context of a faithful community, who gathers regularly and encourages one another.

Mercy and grace is extended to all who come through the sacrifice of Jesus. Failure to respond appropriately to God’s offer is to “*fall into the hands of the living God*”. Our perseverance will be richly rewarded.

### NEXT WEEK:

Hebrews 11 - 12:2

*“The Greatest Pre-Game Speech”*

## **SERMON NOTES: Hebrews 10:19-39**

**Question:** “If what we said about Jesus is true, how should we respond?”

**Hebrews 10:19–39 (NIV84)** **19** Therefore, **brothers**, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by **the blood of Jesus**, **20** by **a new and living way** opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have **a great priest** over the house of God,

**KEEP IN MIND THAT JESUS IS** \_\_\_\_\_

- We are adopted \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. 2:11)
- Jesus, the superior offering, \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus, the mediator of a superior covenant, \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father
- Jesus, a superior priest, \_\_\_\_\_

**22 let us draw near to God** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess**, for he who promised is faithful. **24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, **but let us encourage one another—**and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**RECOGNIZE THAT THE WORK OF JESUS** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ with a new heart and full assurance
- \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s promises
- Become \_\_\_\_\_
- Be a \_\_\_\_\_

**26 If we deliberately keep on sinning** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28** Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has **trampled the Son of God under foot**, who has **treated as an**

**unholy thing the blood of the covenant** that sanctified him, and who has **insulted the Spirit of grace?** **30** For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." **31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

**REALIZE THAT IGNORING THE WORK OF JESUS** \_\_\_\_\_

- If we disregard His offer, then \_\_\_\_\_
- If we disregard His offer, then \_\_\_\_\_ awaits us. Why?
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus' sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus, the Spirit of grace, \_\_\_\_\_

**32** Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, **when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face 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 sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had **better and lasting possessions.**

**35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.** **36** You need to persevere so that **when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.** **37** For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. **38** But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." **39** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

**NEVER, NEVER, NEVER** \_\_\_\_\_

- In the face \_\_\_\_\_; yours and others
- \_\_\_\_\_ the things of this world
- The \_\_\_\_\_

## **SERMON NOTES: Hebrews 10:19-39**

**Question:** “If what we said about Jesus is true, how should we respond?”

**Hebrews 10:19–39 (NIV84)** **19** Therefore, **brothers**, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by **the blood of Jesus**, **20** by **a new and living way** opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have **a great priest** over the house of God,

### **KEEP IN MIND THAT JESUS IS THE BASIS OF OUR CONFIDENCE**

- We are adopted into a new family (cf. 2:11)
- Jesus, the superior offering, removed sin’s penalty
- Jesus, the mediator of a superior covenant, provides access to the Father
- Jesus, a superior priest, intercedes for us

**22 let us draw near to God** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess**, for he who promised is faithful. **24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.** **25 Let us not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, **but let us encourage one another—**and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **RECOGNIZE THAT THE WORK OF JESUS CALLS FOR POSITIVE ACTION**

- Draw near to God with a new heart and full assurance
- Never let go of God’s promises
- Become a Love Machine
- Be a Season Ticket Holder

**26 If we deliberately keep on sinning** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **no sacrifice for sins is left**, **27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.** **28** Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted

the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” **31** **It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

**REALIZE THAT IGNORING THE WORK OF JESUS HAS DIRE CONSEQUENCES**

- If we disregard His offer, then we remain slaves to sin
- If we disregard His offer, then a dreadful judgment awaits us. Why?
  - Jesus is disregarded
  - Jesus’ sacrifice is treated with disrespect
  - Jesus, the Spirit of grace, is insulted

**32** Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face 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 sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

**35** So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. **36** You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **37** For in just a very little while, “He who is coming will come and will not delay. **38** But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” **39** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

**NEVER, NEVER, NEVER QUIT**

- In the face of suffering; yours and others
- Hold loosely the things of this world
- The reward is sure

## **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Hebrews 10:19-39**

### **OPENING**

- As a child growing up, we all were disciplined at one time or another. The approach our parents took may or may not have had its desired effect. Did your behavior change when correction came via “words of encouragement”, or did it take “words of warning”?  
If you have children, did they respond differently to “words of encouragement”, or to “words of warning”?  
Care to share a story? 😊
- *(For leaders: The writer of Hebrews offers another strong warning in the middle of this passage, 10:26-31, as he has already in a few other cases throughout the letter, in order to help his audience understand how important persevering in faith and right living is. The writer will explain this stronger in chapter 12, but it is clear that parental discipline is for the child’s good, and when the stakes are high the warnings must be equally as clear and strong. See 12:7-11.)*

### **GOING DEEPER**

- Hebrews 10:19-39 provides positive and negative reinforcement. Review the positive calls for action in verses 22-25. Note the emphasis is on the church as a whole. The positive side of peer pressure is underscored. How would you rate yourself in light of these challenges? Discuss why the church seems to have lost sight of its mission? Share a few ideas on how this can be addressed. (Send these ideas along to Pastor Bruce!)
- *(Leader note: Positive commands—“Let us” 1) draw near to God, 2) hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, 3) spur one another on toward love and good deeds, and 4) encourage one another, and one in the negative: “let us” not give up meeting together.)*

- *(Additional Leader questions: Which of these calls to action do you struggle with most? What's at stake for the mission of the church, and our own personal lives, if we do not take these calls to action seriously? If we do not take up the call to answer these calls not for ourselves only, but also for others believers? Great opportunity to drive home the value of Connect Groups! Paul calls us to not "give up meeting together." Ask your group why this is so important? What is the value of encouragement and accountability in the body of Christ?" Ask your group if these calls to action are even possible if we do not do community with each other.)*
- A shift in tone takes place from verses 26-31. God is presented in a very different way from verses 19-21. How do you reconcile these two sides of God? Discuss why it is "a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"?
- *(For Leaders: When discussing the different sides of God, notice how they ultimately bring us back to how serious God takes a real relationship with us. Yes, Jesus did what we could not do for ourselves by dying in our place and delivering us from the power of sin and death, but that does not mean we have no part to play. We have to exercise faith, demonstrated in action, if we are to accept what He freely offers us. This is a serious offer, not something God takes lightly. The writer wants us to know that God takes this seriously, because Jesus died not so that we could continue to ignore God and live however we want to live, but so that we could enter into a living relationship with Him, adopted into His family and obedient to His call.)*
- *(Additional questions: you could ask, "If you gave someone a gift and they never thanked you what would their lack of gratitude express to you? How much more if Jesus, the Son of God, gave His own life for us in order to restore us to His family and His work in this world, would our lack of response indicate a deep ingratitude toward Him? He is so adamant about a right relationship with us, that those who reject His offer will get exactly what they and their actions want: a life apart from Him.)*
- *(Additional note: reference the first question when discussing these last questions. Speak about the power of a warning to communicate the*

*seriousness of something, and how it has the power to save lives. Ultimately, when we know this, we are thankful for strong warnings, even if they initially come across frightening.)*

## **CHALLENGE**

- The “confidence” we have received from Jesus must not be thrown away (vs. 35). We are told “*it will be richly rewarded*”. In verses 35-39, a comparison is made between those who shrink back from doing the will of God and those who have not. How do these words challenge or affirm your walk with God?
- *(For leaders: Ever needed a good reminder about why you do what you do? The busyness, worries, and pressures of life have way of clouding what’s most important to us, and why we do what we do, and sometimes it can have fatal consequences. There are spouses who have lost sight of why they entered into the covenant of marriage in the first place and slowly drift away from each other. There are leaders who entered the public realm to make a concrete difference in the world only to get swept up by the pressure of media, fame, and fortune, and in the process lose their original vision. The writer of Hebrews calls his readers to remember the things that first characterized their faith in Christ and reminds them why they did it, “because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions” (vs. 34). He’s reminding them to remember the sacrifices they’ve made because of their faith and calling them to never, never give up! Keep the vision alive!)*
- *(Additional questions: Ask your group, “What might distract you from living the life God has called you to live? What possible excuses have we given into that have pulled us away from pursuing a life on mission for God?” and on the flip side you can ask your group, “What actions have affirmed your faith in Christ lately or over the years? What sacrifices have you made that have encouraged you to stay faithful in the long run?” Each sides of these questions will help your groups focus on what’s most*



*important and how they can challenge each other to faithfully pursue Christ more today than ever.)*