

HEBREWS

"NO TURNING BACK"

Lesson 2

Ice Breaker: Have you ever drifted away in a boat? How did it happen? What was it like? How did you get back?

INTRO: Drifting is not usually something you do intentionally... it happens TO you. Sometimes, as disciples we can drift without realizing it. But whether we intend to drift or not, the results can be devastating. The author of Hebrews gives us ample warning and reason to guard ourselves.

READ: Hebrews 2:1-4

***1** We **must pay more careful attention**, therefore, **to what we have heard**, so that we **do not drift away**. **2** For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, **3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation**, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. **4** God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*

Q: Verse 1 warns against drifting away. Does this verse teach that you can lose your salvation?

- While you cannot sin so bad that you lose your salvation, salvation can lose you!
- Salvation doesn't move, it is *in* Christ. But you can drift away from it!
 - By taking your eyes off Jesus and taking salvation lightly, you can drift away and lose your salvation.
 - Life is in the Son (John 14:6; 1 John 2:24), if you drift away from the Son you drift away from life!

Q: Why is disobeying Jesus so much worse than disobeying the law? (vs. 1-4)

- Violating or disobeying the old law was bad, but at least it was understandable (Rom. 8:3-4).
 - The old law did not have the power to change people (rules never do); it just showed them what was wrong.
 - Jesus, and His grace, changes us so that His laws are written on our hearts (Rom. 2:15)... we want to obey!

Q: What is this salvation that is spoken of in verse 3? (What are we saved from? What are we saved for?)

- 1Pet. 1:18 says we were saved from an empty way of life.
- Eph. 2:10 says we were saved to do good works.

Q: The word translated “ignore” in verse 3 is **ameleo**, *am-el-eh'-o*; and means “to be careless of” or “to make light of.” How is making light of something different from ignoring something?

- The same word (ameleo) is translated “paid no attention” in Matt. 22:5. To get a better sense of what making light of God’s offer of salvation looks like, read the parable in Matt. 22:1-14.

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

4 “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

*5 “But they **paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.** 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.*

8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

*11 “**But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.** 12 ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.*

13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Q: What kinds of attitudes and actions do these people display?

- Verse 5 shows people who were too busy making a living.
- Verse 11 shows a guy who wants to be at the party, but doesn’t want to go to the trouble of dressing up right.
 - Scholars agree the early disciples understood the people in vs. 5 to be the Jews who rejected Jesus and the guy in vs. 11 to be those who wanted to go to church, but weren’t serious about obedience.

Q: Do you see people displaying these same attitudes today? How about in the Church? How about in this group?

APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. Which would better describe your faith walk right now: Carefully following the Master or drifting along?
2. Would Jesus say you take your salvation seriously or lightly?
3. What do you think the King would say about your “wedding clothes”?