

# HEBREWS

## “NO TURNING BACK”

### Lesson 4

**Ice Breaker:** When you first became a Christian, what did you think your life or maybe even your church would look like when you got to the age you are now? Is it what you expected?

Have you ever looked at your life and wondered, “How did I get here... did I make a wrong turn somewhere”? When you find yourself on a road that doesn’t look like you thought it would, you need a pretty good reason to keep going down it.

**INTRO:** The original readers of Hebrews probably dealt with this question a lot. They had grown up worshiping at the temple and practicing the Law of Moses. They heard that Jesus is the messiah they were waiting for and they believed in Him. They had their ideas of what living in His Kingdom would be like... and they found out that it wasn’t always as easy as they thought it would be or should be. To make things worse, their old life and their old friends, were right there to tell them they were wrong and they were making things harder on themselves than they had to. Many of them began to wonder if they were on the wrong road... they needed a real good reason to keep moving forward and not go back.

The writer of Hebrews begins at this point in the letter to give them all the reasons they would need to know they were on the right road and to keep moving forward. But he warns them that good reasons aren’t really enough... they will need courage and hope.

#### **READ: Hebrews 3:1-6**

*Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, **fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.** **2** He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful **in all God’s house.** **3** **Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.** **4** For every house is built by someone, **but God is the builder of everything.** **5** Moses was faithful as a servant **in all God’s house, testifying to what would be said in the future.** **6** But Christ is faithful as a son **over God’s house.** And **we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.***

Q: Why do you think we are told to “fix your thoughts on Jesus?”

- To “fix your thoughts” means to consider, or look at fully.
- We tend to move toward whatever we look at. If we look at Jesus, we will move toward Him.
- If we consider or look at what tempts, we give it power and move toward it.
  - Eve lost her fight with temptation when she began consider her options. (Gen 3:6)
  - Jesus won His fight with temptation because He refused to consider any other option other than being obedient to God. (Matt. 4:1-11)

Q: In these verses, Jesus' role is compared to Moses' role. Why does the writer make this comparison?

- Moses was someone the Jews respected, trusted and built their lives around.
- If they trusted Moses, they should trust Jesus more, because Jesus is greater than Moses!
  - This may not seem to be that big of a point to us because we never built our lives around Moses.
  - But all of us built our lives around something before we came to Christ... Jesus is greater and more trust worthy than anything we trusted before!

Q: According to verse 6, we are God's house. What does that mean?

- Eph. 2:19 *"Consequently, **you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone."*
- 2Tim 3:5 *"...if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in **God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.**"*

Q: Why do you think the writer of Hebrews uses the word "if" in verse 6?

- For every promise there is a premise.
- We have to hold onto our courage and hope that we are God's house.

Q: Why does it take courage and hope to stay in God's house?

- The word "Hope" in Greek means "expect".
  - In English we usually think of hope as wishing, not expecting.
- Romans 8:25 *"**But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.**"*
  - Our hope (our expectation) keeps us going when things get tough... it allows us to be patient while we wait.
- Staying in God's house requires us to have the courage to wait patiently and not lose faith... especially when things get tough or when things don't look like we thought it would.

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

1. What was your life like before you surrendered to Jesus?
  - a. Are you ever tempted to turn back?
  - b. If you are, why haven't you given in?
2. What helps you to hold on to your courage and hope?
3. How can you help someone else hold on to his or her courage and hope?