

THE RISK OF A HARD HEART

Hebrews 3:7-19

Medical experts warn us to learn the symptoms of heart trouble, and act quickly at the first sign of a bad heart.

Watch for signs of a hard heart; a sinful, unbelieving heart.

To Jewish believers, under pressure because they've identified with Jesus.

**JESUS' REVELATION IS SUPERIOR TO MOSES',
BECAUSE HE IS GREATER THAN MOSES. 3:1-6**

=> 3:7-4:13 Since Jesus' revelation is superior, it's important to hear and obey Him!

BASIS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WARNING 3:7-11

Aaron and Miriam's error in rebelling against Moses.

3:1-6 => Num 12:7 => 12:1-8

He was just God's faithful servant—part of His house.

But failure to trust God and obey messenger resulted in judgment.

How much riskier would it be to reject the Son?

Disobedience in Kadesh-Barnea. 7-11

Result: that generation would never receive God's blessing — never enter His rest —Num 14:20-35; =>

Heb. 3:11

Generation failed to trust God and rebelled => died in the wilderness.

If Israel lost privileges God promised them, it's more important that *we* trust and obey Him.

**We have a superior revelation;
consequences of disobedience are greater.**

THE APPLICATION OF THE WARNING TO US 3:12-19

1. Don't let an unbelieving heart turn *you* away from the living God 3:12

Unbelief produces disobedience

(Cp. Deut. 1:2-3, 26, 32)

Don't let unbelief creep into your life!

2. Encourage one another daily 3:13

Murmuring produced discouragement.

As we **encourage** one another,
we're able to face persecution

3. Get a firm grip on your confidence 3:14

Hang on to your hope!

Endurance is the evidence of salvation.

Don't throw in the towel! Hang On!

They're already sharers with Christ.

Literally, "*we have become partners with THE Christ.*"

Evidence: "*If you take a firm hold on the confidence you had in the beginning.*"

Doesn't say we *become* partners by hanging in there.

We *are* His partners.

We demonstrate it by clinging to Him when going is rough.

Who are the people who experience God's judgment?

1. People who **had seen God's power** 3:15-16 ALL

watched God work delivering them from Egypt.

2. People who **sinned against Him** 3:17

These witnesses to God's power sinned against Him

3. People who **disobeyed Him** 3:18

Same witnesses disobeyed Him

4. People who couldn't enter — because of unbelief 3:19

Eye witnesses to greatest demonstrations of God's power ever seen! *Yet they had heart trouble!*

Experiencing God's power is no guarantee people won't turn from Him!

What was spiritual condition of those judged in the wilderness?

Were they believers? unbelievers? mixed group?

All part of the "people of God."

All delivered out of Egypt

Not all personally trusted Yahweh

Some went under social pressure

Some went along with rest of family.

All saved out of Egypt,

but some just went along with the crowd

Those who accompanied believers,

without personally trusting God later rebelled.

Parallel to the church:

Some true believers.

Some children or spouses of true believers.

Some come along for social reasons

If those walking among God's people rebel against Him, they lose their blessing because of unbelief.

Is this a warning to unbelievers or believers? To both!!

Unbelievers convince some believers to join their rebellious response.

They *already* are partners with Christ.

They won't lose that.

Demonstration of genuine faith

=> trust Him in adversity.

Israel missed out on God's blessing, because they failed to trust Him.

Notice downward spiral:

People who've seen God's power begin to doubt

Doubting God produces complaining

Complaining produces a hard heart

Hard-heartedness produces rebellion

Rebellion produces loss of privilege and divine judgment.

What a tragedy!

Many of us have seen God work

We've witnessed when God has done great things

God's work in past should motivate us to trust Him in the future.

When we can't see the light at end of the tunnel,
we should trust Him in the dark!

"Never doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light!"

Unbelief and disobedience keep US from experiencing God's blessing too!

When we trust and obey Him, we enjoy benefits He wants to pour out in our lives, even in the storm.