

The Tragedy of Unbelief

Text: Hebrews 3:7-11

Date: 2-18-24

1. The example of unbelief (Heb. 3:7-9).

Today means now and refers to urgency. Listen to God's voice means obeying His will. Listening means hearing with the intention of changing our life's path.

The people had witnessed God do amazing, miraculous wonders but now they complained against Moses because the first water they found was at Marah and it was bitter. Would God bring them this far only to let them now die in this desolate location?

Why would God do this? To test them! (Ex. 15:26)

Time after time the people were tested only to fail the tests. Ultimately they failed the biggest test: the 12 spies. Only 2 spies trusted in God's promises.

This shows the people never truly believed God.

Unbelief is insidious for it always needs more evidence.

Yet, day to day we don't trust God. We need more proof. We pray for another instance of God's miracles in our life all the while missing Him in the small things and forgetting our salvation (II Pet. 1:9). When we fail to grow in faith and add these things to our foundation, we are blinded and quickly forget God's work. Then we wonder when God doesn't answer our prayer (James 1:2-8). We are much more double-minded than we like to admit.

So the writer of Hebrews says this: Do not be like the past Jewish generation.

Don't harden your hearts. Don't miss and forget God's works.

When we willingly *harden our hearts*, we become obstinate towards God. We keep asking for more proof when God already has shown it to us. When we choose our own path then we are living in unbelief.

We need to hate our unbelief and repent of the sin that is committed against God.

2. The results of unbelief (Heb. 3:10-11)

Unbelief never has a positive or good outcome. Unbelief for the believer results in punishment and loss of reward. Unbelief for the unbeliever always results in eternal punishment and damnation (John 3:36).

Some results of unbelief are:

- **God is grieved**
- **Continual wandering from God**
- **Failure to experience God's ways**
- **No rest**

Spiritually speaking, *rest* means "a change of state from activity or work to a cessation from work that results in a feeling of refreshing tranquility and an absence of tension or worry; especially that God provides".¹

¹ Brannan, R., ed. (2020). In [Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament](#). Lexham Press.

Conclusion

We are left with the clear example of a generation of Jewish unbelief. The results were both damaging and no doubt damning. This should cause us to evaluate our own lives in light of this chapter today.

- 1) Are you unsaved and living in total unbelief? If so, you don't have to stay in that condition. The good news is that this could be the day of salvation for you!
- 2) Do you claim to be a Christian yet you are living in a state of unbelief?