

Hebrews



**Promises
Faithfully
Kept**

Hebrews 10.32-39 (CSB)

Don't Shrink Back Now



Intro: guys, its Father's Day

—clear, straight forward points from the text and supported by other Scripture. I'll make general application of how these points are lived out. Let's start and end with basically the same idea but with slightly different wording.

To start: the main point is, don't shrink back from faith because of fear. You're closer to being home with God now than before your current difficulty started.

**32 Remember the earlier days
when, after you had been
enlightened, you endured a hard
struggle with sufferings.**

33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to taunts and afflictions, and at other times you were companions of those who were treated that way.

34 For you sympathized with the prisoners and accepted with joy the confiscation of your possessions, because you know that you yourselves have a better and enduring possession.

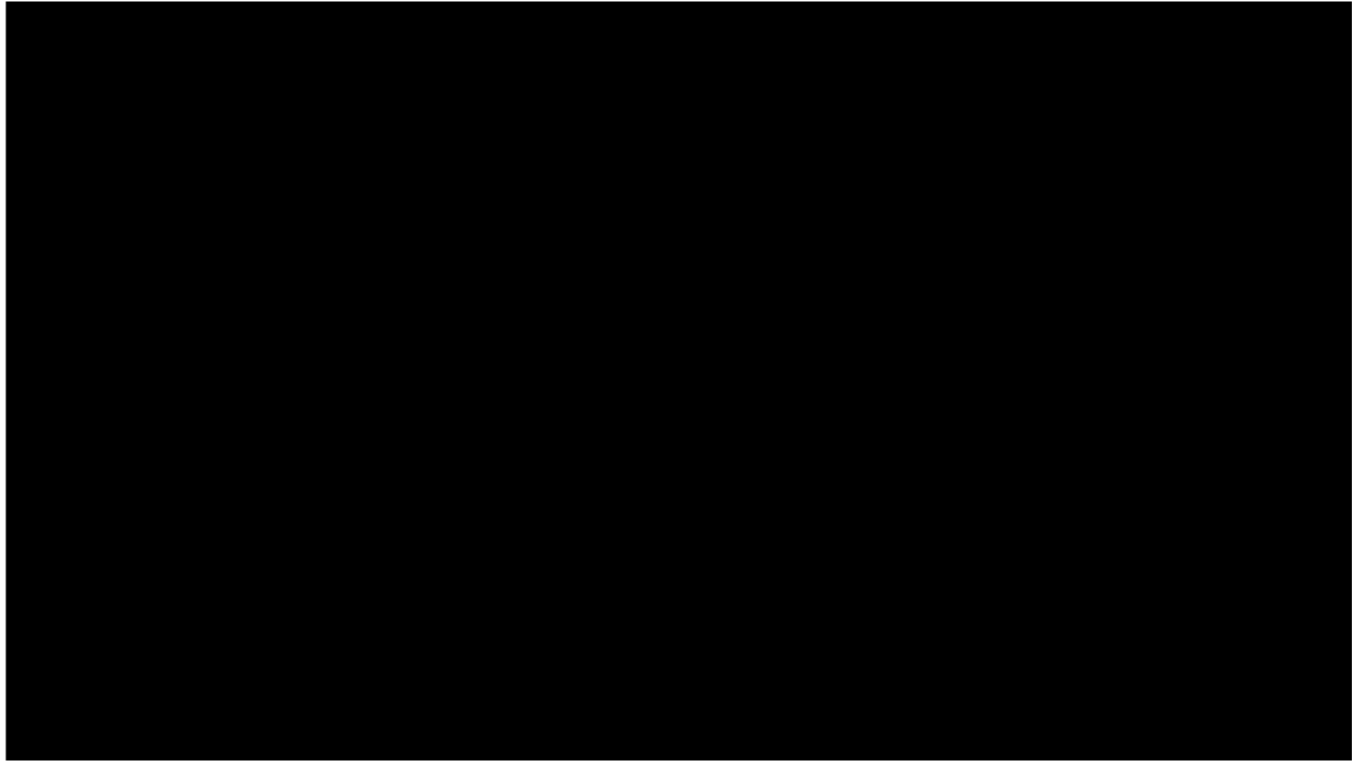
**35 So don't throw away your
confidence, which has a great
reward.**

36 For you need endurance, so that after you have done God's will, you may receive what was promised.

**37 For yet in a very little while,
the Coming One will come and
not delay.**

**38 But my righteous one will live
by faith;
and if he draws back,
I have no pleasure in him.**

**39 But we are not those who
draw back and are destroyed,
but those who have faith and
are saved.**



Pray

Revisit the Lord's victories in your life.

1. Revisit the Lord's victories in your life.

Everybody goes through trials on a regular basis; it's just a matter of how big is your trial and how experienced you are walking with God through trials.

We can't live on yesterday's victories, but they sure can encourage us today.

With it being Father's Day, guys I want to remind you that your families think the world of you. For most of us, we struggle with confidence whether we can and should do something that we believe to be good and right. Are we really smart enough? Are we really trained enough? Are we gifted in the ways that are needed to accomplish a big task? What is the cost if we don't do this right? All kinds of doubts come into our head about whether we are able to step up to the task at hand that God has called us to do.

Within the church
Within our families
At our jobs

Men, I wish you could see yourself through two sets of eyes. I wish you could see yourself through the eyes of your wife or your children or your friends. If they have watched you endure faithfully through difficult times, they admire and appreciate you. As long as your hope has been set on Christ through difficulty, they have seen that hope shine through your dark times.

And I wish you could see yourself now through the eyes of the younger, less mature you.

The younger version of you had not made it through the trials that the older version of you has. We so easily forget that we once longed to get to the point where we are now in our walk with God.

Lyrics from dear younger me

Dear younger me

Where do I start

If I could tell you everything that I have learned so far

Then you could be

One step ahead

Of all the painful memories still running thru my head

I wonder how much different things would be

Dear younger me,

If I knew then what I know now

Condemnation would've had no power

My joy my pain would've never been my worth

If I knew then what I know now

Would've not been hard to figure out

What I would've changed if I had heard

Dear younger me

It's not your fault

You were never meant to carry this beyond the cross

Dear younger me

You are holy

You are righteous

You are one of the redeemed

Set apart a brand new heart

You are free indeed

So revisit the victories the Lord has brought you through so that you have the endurance to make it through whatever difficulty you are facing now.

Renew the courage of those suffering for Christ.

1. Renew the courage of those suffering for Christ.

As we are part of the body of Christ, we should be seeking to bolster not only our own courage but also the courage of brothers and sisters who are struggling.

Not to promote a selfish reason for doing so, but helping others in difficulty helps you through trial.

Getting the focus off yourself for the sake of encouraging someone else is going to grow you in your own faith. It will move you past your own pity parties. As we obey God in caring for others, He will clearly be at work in your life.

As I already said, everyone is dealing with some form of difficulty. So if you're wondering who you can encourage, just look around.

Everyone needs encouragement, But the text has in mind those who are suffering explicitly for the sake of Christ.

When the preacher says that you visited those who were in prison, he's not talking about a prison ministry to reach the lost who are in prison. Those are great ministries that people have. I have a distant cousin who was in jail and came to salvation because of a ministry like that.

The author, the preacher has in mind Christians, fellow believers, who are in jail because they are Christian.

Our nation has had the first amendment protecting people of faith so that they can peaceably express their faith in every day life without fear of repercussion from the

government.

Prior to that amendment in Virginia Christians of different denominations persecuted each other. There are stories of Christians being thrown in jail, others being trampled on at gatherings by horsemen that appeared suddenly, just in Virginia 250 years ago.

There are Christians in this state who have lost their jobs just for trying to respectfully uphold the biblical truth that there are only two sexes and that your biological sex determines your gender, which is essential to our human dignity.

There are Christians near and far who are going to face persecution, and even governmental repercussion, simply for saying they are Christians and trying to live consistently.

Are we ready to help care for them? To pray for them? To encourage? To identify with them?

But there are also Christians that are suffering simply because we live in a fallen world and they need our care, encouragement, a ride from one place to another, emotional support, a listening ear, sometimes financial support.

In all of the potential ministries we have toward one another, we identify with the fellow believer who has accepted his or her suffering as part of living for Christ.

By going to visit the Christians in prison, the Christians that were free were letting the Roman authorities know that they also were Christians.

They were not going to let the potential target on their backs keep them from obeying Christ, who has called us to love our Christian brothers and sisters.

Resolve to endure the world's insults.

Resolve to endure the world's insults.

Jesus warned us ahead of time that this was what was coming, that people would insult us and mock us simply because we are Christians.

Matthew 5:11-12

11 "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. 12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Acts 11:26 It was in Antioch that they were first called Christians

The term appear to have been a diminutive term "those little Christ people."

For two millennia we have taken that which the world considered mockery and taken it as a badge of honor, and rightfully so.

By identifying with Christ by faith, you have chosen sides.

John 15:18

18 “If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you.

1 Peter 4:4

4 They are surprised that you don’t join them in the same flood of wild living—and they slander you.

We base our moral decisions on divine revelation. There is a strong push in by power brokers within our culture to have morality be relative and to remove all basis for consistent definition.

For just holding to consistent definition based on revelation, the world will not understand you. People will either A) ask what is the hope you have or B) seek to belittle you so that they don’t feel so bad for pursuing whatever desire today.

Don’t be shocked or shrink back from clearly being identified with Christ. The world will honor your faith by giving you mockery and verbal abuse. But we have a Lord who has promised a reward for enduring such insult.

And the world may not just give; they may take.

Reserve your heart for what the Lord treasures.

Reserve your heart for what the Lord treasures.

We have to check our hearts when it comes to our possessions.

Matt 6:19-20

19 “Don’t store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal.

Where are treasures are, where are investments are, our hearts are going to sit right there and say, “This is where I belong.”

Money and possessions are not in themselves bad or wrong. We are to take care of our families, the church, and ourselves with them. We are to work and earn a wage. We should invest in wise, ethical business decisions that benefit ourselves and others.

It is not wealth, but the love of money and possessions that we must watch out for.

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

If the world starts targeting your assets because you are a Christian, they are doing so in order to try to get you to deny your faith. If they can’t do that, they hope at least to reduce your influence.

If your heart is not resting on personal fortune but on the grace of God, then the world will only help you refine your faith, not recant it. Losing earthly investments will be hard, but we can’t lose heavenly investments.

Those people who heard the gospel and believed in part because of your sacrifices are a heavenly reward that cannot be taken away.

Your joy in Christ that gets solidified through the furnace of life’s trials cannot be shattered by the world, only further shaped for God’s glory.

Your house and vehicles will one day belong to others and may even be destroyed before Christ returns. If you leave a faithful testimony and legacy in the hearts and minds of others, no government can forcibly remove that investment.

Reserve your heart for the Lord and the treasures of heaven.

In all such trials, those of the world who would oppose us want us to think they are the powerful who are to be feared.

But...

Render unto the Lord—not the world—your fear and faith.

Render unto the Lord—not the world—your fear and faith.

In Isaiah 26:20-21 and Habakuk 2, God warns that He is coming to judge and will not delay, but his people, those who have faith, will live. That quote on living by faith from Hab. 2:4 could mean, faith is the manner by which one is to live. But it also implies strongly that only those found to have faith will live through God's judgment.

Jesus warns his disciples that we should not fear those who can kill the body but not the soul but to fear God who can kill both body and soul in hell.

If you want to know whom you fear and in whom you have faith, consider who you run to first and most often in times of need.

Jesus told a parable emphasizing that we should run to our just and faithful Father with our needs.

Luke 18:1-8

18 Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up. 2 "There was a judge in a certain town who didn't fear God or respect people. 3 And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

4 "For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, 5 yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn't wear me out by her persistent coming.'"

6 Then the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 Will not God grant justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay helping them? 8 I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

We're not those who shrink back. We're those who press in more, who press in closer to the Father's embrace and hearing. Instead of giving into the world that wants to exalt itself, let's humble ourselves under God's hand. He'll lift us up in due time.

