

# **HEBREWS 3:1, 7-19**

## **TRUMPET #2, PART 2: *Keep Your Heart Soft***

### >Review of the context: The Letter of Hebrews as a whole

- >Hebrews is an amazing 1<sup>st</sup> century letter written to Jewish Christians whose lives were falling apart!
- >They had done everything right. And everything had turned out wrong.
- >And their lives were a painful mess.
- >They were seriously considering abandoning Jesus and going back to their lives before Jesus.

### >First 10 chapters = 8 Pillars: Spotlight on who Jesus is!

Chapters 1-2 (leading up to our passage tonight) have covered 5 of the 8 pillars:

- Pillar 1: God's Final Message
- Pillar 2: Fully God
- Pillar 3: Better Than Angels
- Pillar 4: Fully Human
- Pillar 5: Better Than Moses

### Major Urging of the entire letter:

*Jesus and this new covenant are still so much **better** than any alternative!*

*Hang on to Jesus with BOTH hands!*

*FORWARD!*

*NO TURNING BACK*

### >Trumpet 2: 2 parts:

- Part 1: Keep Focused! Move from religion to relationship!
- Part 2: Coming right now!

## >The Text: Hebrews 3:1, 7-19

1 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, **fix your thoughts** on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says:

**“Today, if you hear his voice,**

**8 do not harden your hearts**

like you did in the rebellion,

during the time of testing in the desert,

9 where your fathers tested and tried me, and for forty years they saw what I did.

10 That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’

11 So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ ”

**12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.**

13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

14 We have come to share in Christ if we hang on tightly to the confidence we started with--until the end.

15 As has just been said:

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts

as you did in the rebellion.”

16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

## >Last week: “Keep Focused!”

Jesus will be our King... or he will be nothing to us.

## >Today: **Keep your heart soft!**

>The writer says our hearts are like clay!

>If you aren't careful--> they'll turn hard towards God! Hard towards his voice! Hard towards his word!

>This isn't written to non-Christians! This is written to church people! Religious people. “Prone to wander, Lord I feel it...”

Your heart has a recurring tendency to hardness!

## >Verses 16-19: A Quick Warning

>This happens! To GOD'S PEOPLE! Entire generations of Christians go hard!

>And they miss out on his best-- on seeing all his plans-- including what their hearts most want---- rest!

>God swears!

>What if we confess our sin and our hardness? God forgives, and fellowship is restored. But sometimes the consequences are permanent. (verse 18).

There can be silver linings.

You can have heaven.

You can have hope.

But some things are LOST forever!

This generation LOST their chance at seeing God's full destiny in their lives!

And they LOST their chance at rest!

And they NEVER got it back!

## >**There are very good things God has for your life!**

But you have to KEEP focused to get them!

and you have to KEEP YOUR HEART SOFT!

## >Verses 7-11: The Holy Spirit explains things in his own words

## >Verse 12: Enough reminiscing... the writer stops, looks up, and addresses the present Christian audience who may be alive and reading this letter (that's us) (v.12)

*“Only 1 life, will soon be past.  
Only what's done for Christ will pass”*

>Darkness will do everything it can to HARDEN your heart towards God! So he says to them, and I say it to you: See to it! (watch out) (v.12)

>Keep your heart soft! Keep your heart soft!

## **>Application Time**

Key, Only 2 Questions to ask yourself for today

1. Lord, is there ANYthing in my life that is making me harder/colder towards you?

2. How do you want me to take action about it-- **TODAY?**

## >Verse 13: *Hardness protection:*

>Encouragement & strong urging from other brothers and sisters! (this is the Ziploc bag that keeps our hearts soft)

>**This is the way we make it through.** By encouraging the sisters at your side. And letting them encourage you.

Not the whole group--- but you find your one or two.

Open up your heart to them. Let them encourage you.

Get close enough to them that they can open up their hearts to you. And you encourage them.

*This is the way we make it through.*

*This is the way we keep our hearts soft.*

## >Closing Reading

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