

Title: Fixed on Jesus
Passage: Heb 10:
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Series: Fixed on Jesus

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Read Heb 10:26-31

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It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God

When King David sinned against God, because he numbered off his fighting men, God gave David three options (2 Sam 24)

1. three years of famine – placing Israel into the hands of the surrounding nations
2. three months of fleeing – placing David into the hands of his enemies
3. three days of plague.

David's reply to the prophet Gad was telling

2 Sam 24:14

"I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

He chose 3 days of plague, from which sadly 70 000 people died.

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I wonder, if judgement was to come your way into whose hands would you wish to fall?

As we have worked through Hebrews, we have seen the great justice and mercy of God.

The writer has been clear that rejecting Jesus carries consequences more severe than that of the law of Moses.

2:2 since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

And we have seen in Jesus, we have a high priest who is merciful, is able to emphasise with us in our weaknesses, understands our temptations, He deals gently with those who go astray.

Because of this

4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

God sees us truly. God has insight into the secret and not so secret sins of our lives. His response is to judge this sin, and in his mercy place the weight of our sin on his son. There is in Jesus God's offer of forgiveness.

Those who believe fully acknowledge the judgement of God, and gratefully receive God's mercy and grace through Jesus.

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But there are no other hands into which I would rather fall.

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But what if I know all this and reject it.

What if I know the judgement and grace of God, the work of Jesus and the cost of the cross to bring me back to God

what if I wilfully, intentionally, deliberately reject it all?

What other new way does God have to rescue me now?

Hebrews gives us the clearest and most fearsome warning

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28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

With all our talk of grace, we're not used to this God of judgement

But if justice is to be meaningful

And life is not simply a game where God is the master and we are mindless minions.

Then our choices must matter and we can choose to disregard the grace of God.

Clearly this is alarming news

it is has caused people to worry, what does it mean to deliberately keep on sinning?

- in history people put baptism off as late as possible in case they seriously sinned and put their salvation at jeopardy
- people sought to define what kinds of sins were deliberate and therefore to be avoided.

It does appear to me there's something wrong with trying to find a way of appropriately sinning, while not putting grace at risk.

It gives sin too much power and grace not enough.

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What the writer intended is like that found in Num 15:30-31

“But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or foreigner, blasphemes the Lord and must be cut off from the people of Israel. 31 Because they have despised the Lord’s word and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them.”

Here the person is defiant in their sin.

For an Israelite God gave provision of sacrifices for sins both intentional and unintentional.

People brought their sacrifice, they acknowledge their sin, they appealed to God for forgiveness, they repented from their action.

But there was no sacrifice available for a person who would not acknowledge their sin, would not appeal to God, would not bring a sacrifice, would not repent

Vs 29 speaks to deliberate sin like this

- It tramples the son of God under foot
- It treat as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant
- It insults the spirit of grace

When you sin deliberately, when you resist God like this, what is the God of justice, mercy, and grace to do?

What other way, apart from Jesus will he offer?

Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot?

Core to the Christian conviction of our need for grace is the certainty that God is the judge of the living and the dead. There will be a day when God brings his justice to bear completely on the world. He will make all things right. And those who stand against his rule, will face destruction. The image of v27 “raging fire that will consume the enemies of God” is no doubt a metaphor, but the “fearful expectation of judgment” is certainly not. Terrible truth is without receiving God’s grace we all stand on the wrong side of God’s judgement.

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King David knew what he did deserved punishment

- the tragedy as a leader was his choice was costly for the nation and leaders need to heed this lesson

But the sign David was not defiant in his sin was

- he sought justice of God in his own life
- he was repentant
- he was prepared to place himself under the mercy of God

Here is the paradox

those who own their sins and are most humbled by grace are most likely to not need this warning.

The day you wake up and think you no longer need grace, that what God requires is holding you back from becoming all you want to be.

That's the day of trouble.

The faithful Christian keeps short account with God and with others.

They are glad for the Lord’s judgement, because it frees them from the sins which entangle.

They can dare to be glad of judgement because they consider their sins soberly and God’s grace powerfully.

Having rattled their cage back Heb 6

6:9-12 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Don’t take your faith for granted. Don’t neglect it. Persist. Place yourself in God’s hands

- God knows your heart – your love for God and people
- Demonstrated in the good works of helping others.

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Response/Prayer/Care cards