

Life Lessons From Our Past

A Study of Hebrews - (Hebrews 10:32-39)

Rabbi Barney Kasdan, March 15th, 2020

I. The Challenges: (Hebrews 10:32-34)

- After enlightened v32a
- Great struggle v32b
- Partners with others v33
- Prisoners + Property v34a
- Better property ahead! v34b

II. The Promises: (Hebrews 10:35-39)

- Don't lose boldness v35
- Hang tough v36a
- Stay on God's path v36b - 38
- Soul protected v39

III. The Key Ingredients: (Habakkuk 2:2-4)

- Word v2
- Wait v3
- Faith / Emunah v4

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our tenth week of this 12 week study of Hebrews 5-11. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in March.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning was a first for us at GPC. Instead of gathering together, we stayed home and watched the worship and message from our website. How was that for you?

What have you been feeling this past week with all the global, national and local news and how our 'normal lives' have not been that normal lately? If you haven't been consumed with anxiety/worry, what has helped?

Rabbi Barney spoke on Hebrews 10:32-39 which provided some words of encouragement to the early Jewish believers that this letter was sent to. The writer speaks of the time that these early followers of Jesus were 'enlightened' (v32). What's your story? What moments in your spiritual journey did you feel you were enlightened (what key truths have you learned along the way and when did you learn them) to help you mature in your faith step by step?

Along with insights along the way that have helped us, there have been some struggles/challenges along the way that have helped shape us. Let's admit that most of us have it pretty good here in SoCal. But there are struggles for all believers and we have all had our more specific difficulties. What have you experienced that has helped shape you ... for good or not so good so far in your life?

We are also encouraged to 'stay on God's path' for us in Hebrews 10:36-38. What does that mean for you? What are some things that can tend to get us to veer off of God's path for us?

In Habakkuk 2:2-4, which was one of the passages Barney shared with us, we are encouraged to reflect on God's Word 'so we may run who reads it'. What are some lessons from the OT that have helped you walk with God and grow spiritually? What are some lessons that have helped you mature from the NT?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read Hebrews 10:32-39. Looking back at your notes from last Sunday's teaching on this passage, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

1. Living with an eternal perspective is planning with God's kingdom in mind and helps us walk through enduring moments. One of the incentives God gives us to grow through whatever comes our way are the rewards we will receive in heaven. How do the following verses describe what it takes to receive rewards and prepare for our ultimate assignment in heaven?

Luke 6:27-31, 35-36

Ephesians 6:5-8

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

How would you put the above verses in order from easiest to most challenging?

2. The good news is that even though life can be hard, God not only offers us future rewards, but also encourages us today.

How might the following verses serve as a comfort and encouragement when we're facing trials, frustrations or hardships?

Lamentations 3:22-24

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Romans 8:31-39

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Which of these verses is most encouraging to you?

The verses above give us a lot to be thankful for as followers of Jesus. In fact, as Jesus followers we should ultimately be seen as optimists. Do you agree or disagree ... why?

3. One of the passages that provide some purpose to and encouragement for our endurance is Romans 5:1-5.

What are some insights that you see from this passage that can help us in our dry or difficult times of life?

4. The last passage we will look at is James 1:12-15. After describing the result of remaining steadfast under trial, the focus turns to temptation. When trials comes, we can be tempted to believe that God is not for us. God never tempts us to fail but provides for us opportunities to trust Him so that we can experience His power and presence when we need Him.

What insights can you see from these few verses that can help us maintain our trust in God's love and care when we experience difficulty?

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?