

A hand is shown from the wrist up, holding a crown of thorns. In the center of the crown is a bright, glowing blue cross. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background with several bright, jagged lightning bolts radiating outwards from the cross.

Jesus
Is Supreme

Hold Firm

Hebrews 3:7-19

Going home ...

- ★ Daughter's 20th birthday – visited her @ U Vic
 - ◆ The campus is largely deserted
 - ◆ Here last work shift is tonight
 - ◆ Her mantra, “I can't wait to be home.”
- ★ Today we are returning to Hebrews
 - ◆ It's about going home

1. Do not Harden your Heart

✦ Ch 1-2 ... The surpassing greatness of Jesus

✦ Ch 3 brings a warning

- ◆ Temptation – align with an approved religion
- ◆ We must remain faithful

✦ Twice (v 8, 15) quotes Ps 95:8 – not harden heart

- ◆ Incident in Num 13-14 and Deut 1-2.

1. Do not Harden your Heart ...

★ The story

- ◆ Twelve spies check out the Promised Land
 - ◆ *Ten* – The land is good, but the people are too strong
 - ◆ *Two* (Caleb & Joshua) – God will deliver the land to them
- ◆ The people were very afraid
 - ◆ They had seen all God's miracles. (Num 14:11)
 - ◆ God decides: Not one will enter the Land (Deut 1:34-35)

1. Do not Harden your Heart ...

✦ Psalm 95

- ◆ Joy of the faithful ... warns the unfaithful
- ◆ The principle – Do not harden your hearts
- ◆ Do not look at circumstances and doubt

2. Take Care

- ★ Re-read vv 12-14
- ★ Take care against:
 - ◆ An evil unbelieving heart
 - ◆ Falling away from the Living God
 - ◆ Being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin
- ★ They happen for a very specific reason ...

2. Take Care ...

- ★ Specific reason – looked in the wrong direction
 - ◆ Saw the strength of the nations
 - ◆ Looked at their own weakness
 - ◆ Logical deduction – no way we will win
- ★ Caleb & Joshua – different perspective (Nu 14:8-10)
 - ◆ Looked at who was on their side – Lord is with us.

2. Take Care ...

- ★ Don't look at the circumstances
 - ◆ Look at who is with you and where you are going
- ★ The deceitfulness of sin – looks at tangible reality
 - ◆ Tells us that is all there is
 - ◆ Crowd out bigger picture – God is with us

2. Take Care ...

- ★ To overcome – two instructions
 - ◆ Exhort one another every day
 - ◆ Hold firmly to confidence in Christ
 - ◆ Something communal & something personal
- ★ Communal:
 - ◆ Exhort & encourage one another
 - ◆ God does not expect us to tough it out alone

2. Take Care ...

★ Personal:

- ◆ Hold firmly to your confidence in Christ
- ◆ Choose to be like Caleb & Joshua

3. Do not Rebel

★ Three questions:

- ◆ Who are those who heard and rebelled? (v 16)
- ◆ With whom was God provoked for 40 years? (v 17)
- ◆ To whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest? (v 18)

3. Do not Rebel ...

★ Three answers:

- ◆ Those who were led out of Egypt by Moses.
- ◆ Those who sinned (through unbelief).
- ◆ Those who were disobedient.

★ People addressed: those who saw what God did

- ◆ Sinned through unbelief and disobedience

Living It – The Long View

- ✦ Don't look at the present ...
... look at what is to come
- ✦ A choice we must make:
 - ◆ We must not harden our hearts
 - ◆ We must take care
 - ◆ We must not rebel