

Jesus in the Psalms **Today, Trust & Obey**

Psalm 95

January 12th, 2025

I. Introduction (Rev. 1:12-18)

The Jesus John saw walking among the lampstands is the same Jesus who walks in our midst. This is the Jesus whom we meet with every week, as we gather together as His covenant people. This is a tremendous comfort and joy, but it is also a great _____. The Lord Jesus is *good*, but He is not *safe*. As we read in Deut. 23:14, “The LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.” The Lord our God dwells here with us. He will deliver us. He will give our enemies into our hands. But not if we are unholy: not if we are unclean in our hearts and in our lives; not if we are walking in a manner unworthy of His presence; not if we’re secretly harboring stubborn, disobedient hearts.

II. The Text: Psalm 95

*... Today, if you will bear His voice:
8 “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,
As in the day of trial in the wilderness,
9 When your fathers tested Me;
They tried Me, though they saw My work.
10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation,
And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts,
And they do not know My ways.’
11 So I swore in My wrath,
‘They shall not enter My rest.’”*

III. The Age of ‘Today’

This ‘Today’ is still _____: we live in the age of ‘Today’. It was the Today of God’s people in the wilderness. It was the Today of the Israelites who sang this song much later. It was the Today of those Christians addressed by the Apostle in Hebrews. And it is our Today. Why is this? Why is this message still relevant to us now as it was across all of these generations? It is still relevant, because we are still God’s people, He is still our Maker and our Shepherd, and we are still on journey to the land of God’s promised _____.

IV. Trust & Obey (Heb. 4)

Since this Today is our Today we must heed this warning. According to the Apostle in Heb. 4, the wilderness generation did not attain to the promise land because the good news they heard was not mixed with _____. They did not believe and trust in the Lord, but they worshipped Him in vain. Their hearts were not right. They heard the Lord’s voice. They heard Him speak, both thundering from Sinai and through His servants. But they did not heed what they heard. Instead they turned to their rebellious ways.

They did not have true faith, and as a result they did not have true _____. The Apostle makes this lack of obedience explicit; he writes, “Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience (Heb. 4:6). They did not have faith in the Lord and in His Word. And they did not obey the Lord and His Word. What was the consequence of this lack of faith and disobedience? The Lord was _____ with that generation. He swore in His wrath that they would not enter His rest. They would perish in the wilderness. In their Today, they heard the voice of the Lord, but they hardened their hearts. They did not believe what they heard from the Lord and they did not obey what they heard from the Lord.

V. Common Temptations to Man (1 Cor. 10)

Israel in the wilderness embodies the chief ways that God’s people in every generation err and go astray. They are a pattern and an _____ for us in our own day, so that we might learn from them and not repeat their errors.

Lust, Envy, Covetousness. In Numbers we read that the Israelites gave themselves to intense cravings. They were filled with lustful desires for food, when they demanded meat from the Lord, and longed to be back in Egypt. They were filled with lustful desires for forbidden women, when the Moabite women infiltrated the Israelite camp and seduced the men. They were filled with lustful desire for power, as when Korah and Dathan and Abiram rose up against Moses and Aaron. How did God respond? He swore they would not enter His rest.

Complaining & Grumbling. When our lust and envy and covetousness is on simmer, not a full boil, while we might not (yet) fall into scandalous, grievous sin, yet we are thoroughly grumpy and dour and bitter. We are miserable people and everybody around us knows it. An attitude of complaining and grumbling is _____ (Phil 2:14-15). Christians are, as little Christs, to bring light into this world. By trusting in the Lord and His sovereign grace over all things, we are strengthened to live obedient lives, at peace and with joy, for we rejoice in the living hope secured us in Christ.

“Hell begins with a grumbling mood, always complaining, always blaming others . . . but you are still distinct from it. You may even criticize it in yourself and wish you could stop it. But there may come a day when you can no longer. Then there will be no *you* left to criticize the mood or even to enjoy it, but just the grumble itself, going on forever like a machine. It is not a question of God ‘sending us’ to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will BE Hell unless it is nipped in the bud” (C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*)

VI. A Way of Escape (1 Cor. 10:13)

It is true that through many trials and tribulations we must enter the full rest of God. But, we are not left alone. As Paul writes in 1 Cor 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of _____, that you may be able to bear it.” Our God has called us into His rest. He accompanies in our trek. We will face various temptations, but He is with us to help us walk faithfully and obediently through them. But we have to look to Him. We have to trust heartily in the Word of God, and ever heed Him as He leads us onward.

VII. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ