

Sermon Recap – Focus passages: Hebrews 1:1–14; 10:32–39; 12:1–2

Hebrews was written to a people in the midst of struggles and testing (Hebrews 12:11.) The author of Hebrews offers help to his students in order to face the tests. Today we face the temptations to not listen well, to not respond quickly or thoughtfully, to not forgive, to not ask for forgiveness, to turn away, to not have the hard conversations, to not show up in the difficult places, to not do the hard work of reconciliation, and to not try and fix our problems.

- When testing leads to temptation, fix your eyes on Jesus as your all-powerful savior. (Hebrews 12:2)
- When testing leads to temptation, fix your eyes on the routine of Jesus. Jesus prayed. It is the heart of arrogance to lead outside of prayer. (Mark 1:35)
- When testing leads to temptation, fix your eyes on the reaction of Jesus. Jesus never prevents people from coming into his life. (Mark 10:13-16)
- When testing leads to temptation, fix your eyes on the emotions of Jesus. Jesus has compassion and is moved in the deepest parts of his being. (Mark 6:34)
- When testing leads to temptation, fix your eyes on the table of Jesus. Welcome people to our tables as Christ welcomed people (and us) to HIS table. (Luke 14:12-13)

Jesus is the tremendous example of faith and faithfulness. He doesn't just assist us in difficulties but is the radiance of the glory of God. He isn't another prophet pointing to God but is the God who the prophets pointed to. In the midst of current tests that lead to temptation, we must fix our eyes on Jesus.

Application Questions:

1. "How can we as a Body, become more inclusive to people who aren't normally in our circles?"
2. When you find yourself angry with or disliking someone for whatever reason, would consciously saying to yourself, "This person is a fellow image bearer of God" impact your attitude and actions?
3. Hebrews 10:33 said the recipients of the letter were, " ... sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated." How do you see these words applying to you and to our church?