

Tonight we wrap up our series in Hebrews. We're in a different place now than when we started. We started by understanding how God was working and communicating in the OT.

Each step (angels, mooses, priest, covenant, sacrifice) **Is now in and through Jesus....simply put, Jesus was greater That old life and way of relating to God has passed....now all this is completed in Jesus**

So the big question is this.....WHAT DO WE DO NOW? How do we respond to JESUS...the greater one?

Chapter 11 shows us FAITH is the first step. A trust and belief that Jesus is all you need.

Tonight we get a bit specific with that. Ultimately we say this.

The Main THREAD: our response to Jesus is a faith filled life of action.

Hebrews 12-13 is filled with application, with how we respond to the reality that Jesus is Greater.

The question tonight is this: **What does it look like to respond to Jesus with a faith filled life of action. (3 things)**

BECAUSE JESUS IS GREATER

1. I Deal with sin (12:1) (lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely)

WHAT IS SIN? Anything (good and bad) that keeps me from this faith-filled life of action, a life that most honors God.

We think of sin as things that are bad -They are, BUT LISTEN - The thing may not always be a sin, it could be the using of it.

For these folks it was foggy thinking of Jesus, emotions of dealing with persecution. "GET RID OF THAT THINKING."

For us it's a list of things, both good/bad. **SO we must deal with anything that's keeping us from a life that most honors God.**

It doesn't mean I forsake everything in this world....(good job, education, sports, relationships, pursuits, dreams)

It means I own them, rather than them owning me – It means I choose great over good. **(good is the enemy of great)**

The call for the believers is simple, deal with sin & see it for what it is....**an enemy of a life that seeks to most honor God.**

This thought of weight slowing us down makes total sense, right? (We must use this same wisdom to spiritual things)

BECAUSE JESUS IS GREATER

2. I run and look to Jesus (12:1)

God never asks us to give up something without already having something greater prepared.

It's not like dr. thunder, mountain lightning or pepsi.....these are cheap imitations of the real thing right.

Like this, God is calling us to turn from these cheap imitations....and to something greater..

V. 2 even explains again, in a simple way WHY JESUS is the right and only answer. **(founder and perfecter of our Faith)**

And listen, **what you're running to may be good, may be ok...it may just be flat out awful.**

But to all these things God would say and is saying, run to and look to something greater, JESUS

Run here means pursue, not actually running – So we go and look to Jesus (we LOOK where we're going)

You ever not looked where you're going? Doesn't end well

Back to our big question: How in the world am I to respond to the reality that Jesus is Greater?

I Believe (have Faith) – I constantly fight sin/leave it – then I run to and look to Jesus. What's next is almost natural.

BECAUSE JESUS IS GREATER

3. I Live for Jesus (13) Is that too simple? No! But maybe we can be more specific.

The last chunk of Hebrews helps us see how we can put skin on faith....how we can practically live for Jesus.

Ultimately, my life becomes this sacrifice of praise. I praise/honor God by how I live my life...as a sacrifice to him.

Look at **12:28** – This Jesus has established and is the very king of a kingdom that CANNOT be shaken.

so now....my life is worship, lived out to this amazing God and King.

Romans **12:1-2** mention something similar – **READ IT (HOLY/ACCEPTABLE/NOT Conformed to the World)**

Ch. 13 helps us understand to be a living sacrifice or to live a life of worship **(hint: it's more than a song) Read 13:1-9, 13**

Just some practical ways for us to have a faith filled life of action.

SO WHAT NOW? It's really simple. What is your response to the truth that Jesus is Greater?

It's a response each of us will & do make daily. You can embrace it & run the race **OR** reject it and run your own race.

So...What is the right response to the reality that Jesus is Greater? .

1. **I BELIEVE & TRUST THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS.** I truly believe Jesus is greater and the only help to my sin problem.

I believe in him, I trust him and I follow him by faith. **Have you followed Christ? Is there faith in Him?**

2. **I DEAL WITH SIN** - If pleasing God and being in a right relationship with him is important, you deal with sin!

If that thing can't be used for God's glory, leave it: If it can be, but isn't being used in that way, something must change.

Either you begin to use it **or** it will continue to use you, leaving you empty, tricked, confused. **Are you dealing with sin?**

3. **I LOOK AND RUN TO JESUS** – Some days it's easy, other days it's hard, but what race isn't? **But the game plan is simple, keep your eyes on Jesus, never let another replace him. Are you looking to and running to Jesus daily?**

THEN I SIMPLY LIVE!

Questions for groups on youversion and screen

1. What is the right first response to Jesus being Greater? (**Heb. 11:1** helps us)
2. What are some struggles in just leaving sin? What does it mean to let go of sin?
3. What is something that would help you leave a particular sin you're struggling with?
4. How does **Hebrews 12:2** help us understand why Jesus is worth us leaving sin and following him?
5. How can we make the ways Hebrews 13:1-9,13 encourages us to live out our faith more specific to us?
Two good ones: **13:2** (how can I be hospitable?) **13:5** (how can I not have a love for money, to be content?)
You may find more, the key is this, how do I apply this to my situation and life?
6. What stood out to you in tonight's message? (you thought we forgot!)