

Hebrews Grace and Gratitude

Session 2: Threshold Moments

1. Thresholds Moments

- Threshold = the place or point of entering or beginning
- What are moments in life that we could call Threshold moments?

2. Watch the Video

- In the video, deSilva mentions some threshold experiences—moments “when we’re tempted not to go any farther . . . to turn back or at least to give up.” What have been some significant threshold moments in your life?
- What practical help for facing threshold moments does the preacher of Hebrews find for his congregation in Jesus’s suffering and death?
- Do you think more often of death as “a threshold over which to cross,” “the end of your journey,” or something else? What experiences have shaped your attitude toward death?
- “In our moments of greatest honesty with ourselves,” says deSilva, “we might have to admit that we [like some ancient Israelites] are really more concerned with, and more invested in, securing our little piece of the world that is passing away than building our lives anew from the ground up on the foundation of Jesus’s instructions.” How strongly do you agree or disagree, and why?

3. Reading and Discussing Hebrews 2:5-18

- What point is the preacher trying to make when he quotes Psalm 8 in verses 6-8. What does the “honor and glory” mean, specifically, to you? How much does the promise of it motivate you to live as Jesus’s follower?
- In verses 14-15, why did the Son of God become flesh and blood according to the preacher?

- In verses 16-18, the preacher says the Son of God became our high priest to help us. What two specific ways does Jesus our high priest help us according to the preacher? (see verses 17 & 18)

4. Reading and Discussing Hebrews 3:16–4:2, 11-13

- The preacher uses the story of the Israelites in the wilderness as an illustration. What threshold did the Israelites fail to cross in the Old Testament? What threshold is the preacher concerned his audience may not cross? (verse 1-3)
- What do you think the preacher is referring to when he speaks of “special rest”? (verse 9)
- What can keep us from entering God’s rest?
- Verse 12-13 speak of the Word of God. How do these two verses relate to what the preacher said about entering God’s “rest”.

The significance of death weighs heavily on our lives.

- Name specific attitudes that our culture has toward death, as seen in popular media, familiar sayings, social customs, etc.
- When you think about death, what words, images, and feelings do you most often experience, and why?

“Because Jesus unwaveringly walked the path of obedience to God knowing full well that it would lead to death—and, all the more, because God responded to Jesus’s obedient death by raising him to a life that death could no longer touch—he showed us that death is not a dead end, but a threshold over which we pass on the way to glory. By doing so, Jesus broke death’s mystical hold over our day-to-day lives.”

- David deSilva.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, our brother, our Savior, we praise you for claiming us as your own; for becoming flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone; for presenting us to God in joy and confidence. May your Spirit make us worthy of the trust you place in us to follow where you lead and obey your commands, that we may experience your presence now and one day cross one last threshold into the peace of your rest, where we will glorify you and our God forever. Amen.