

Week 15: FORMED Series

Living from a Transformed Heart

Hebrews 8

Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

⁷ For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸ But God found fault with the people and said:

*"The days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.*

*⁹ It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them,
declares the Lord.*

*¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.*

*I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.*

*I will be their God,
and they will be my people.*

*¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.*

*¹² For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."*

¹³ By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

From this week's sermon:

Rod focussed on the covenantal promises / declarations from God out of the Jeremiah 31:31-33 quotation. It's God who has done this for us, it's by His grace there is nothing we have done or can do to earn it.

1. **I will** put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.
2. **I will** be their God.
3. **They will** all know me.
4. **I will** forgive their wickedness.

Scholarly Insight:

Guthrie's comments:¹

The quote of Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Heb. 8:8-12) has three parts. (1) The Lord promises a time when he will make a new covenant with the people of God (v. 8). (2) Following from the word "new," this promise is qualified negatively, in that this covenant would not be like the Sinai covenant. The reason for this change of arrangements is also given: Those led out of Egypt did not remain faithful to God's covenant (v. 9). (3) Finally, the details of the new covenant are described positively. The laws of God will be placed on the minds and hearts of God's people, the relationship between God and his followers will be firmly established (v. 10), and everyone within the covenant will know the Lord (v. 11), because God will forgive their sins (v. 12). The emphasis on relationship and the internal quality of the effect on God's people is unmistakable. The new covenant, in essence, establishes a relationship with God. In that relationship the laws of God are internalized and the forgiveness of sins is foundational.

For Reflection:

1. Is there any area where I am still striving instead of resting in what God has done (and His promises)?
2. Am I tempted to return to the OLD WAY (my old ways)? Which promise(s) of the new covenant do I most need to receive today?
3. Is there anything hindering my relationship with God? What is one step I can take this week to draw closer to Him?

Pray for each other:

Father, thank You for the new way that you have given us through Jesus. Thank You that: your law is written on our hearts, that you are our God, that we can know you, and that You forgive our sins.

Help us this week to rest in what You have done living from a heart transformed by your grace. Where we are tempted to return to our old ways, draw our hearts back to You. Where we carry guilt or shame, remind us of Your forgiveness and grace. By Your Holy Spirit, help us to know You more deeply and reflect your love to those around us. Amen.

¹ George Guthrie, Hebrews, (Zondervan Academic, 2009), 282.

Formation Practice:

As we exploring being Formed by Jesus this series; we want to encourage you to do this simple exercise every day for the next 2 months. It can take 5 minutes or more, whatever you are able to achieve (and as you do it more and more, you'll likely find it easier to spend longer listening and reflecting).

"Draw Near Daily" Rhythm (5-10 minutes)

- ***Come:*** *Quiet yourself before God.*
- ***Confess:*** *Be honest about sin/struggle.*
- ***Receive:*** *Remember what Christ has done.*
- ***Respond:*** *Take one step of obedience.*