

## Today

### Hebrews 3

What day is it? It's Sunday, October 6, 2024. It's the day after Iowa State played Baylor. It's week 5 of the NFL regular season. It's the first day of the National League Division Series. It's 30 days until the election. It's 80 days until Christmas. That's what day it is.

What day is it? It is . . . today. And since it is today, that means that this is the most important day for you to hear God's voice. To hear God's voice means to receive it and respond to it in repentance and faith. Today we look at examples of those who had the voice of God speaking to them, but they did not repent or believe. Examples from a nation, a people that fell in the wilderness because they did not listen to God's command. My prayer for you, though, is that you will hear—really hear, and take to heart—what God is saying to you today, so that you will go away from here rejoicing.

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” The author of Hebrews is pointing back to the times the Israelites didn't listen to God's voice while they were on the Exodus. As they wandered through the wilderness, they had chances to listen to God, but didn't. They built the golden calf while Moses was up on Mount Sinai receiving the 10 Commandments. When Joshua and Caleb and the ten other spies returned from scouting out the land, they listened to reports of giants in the land instead of the opportunities of a land flowing with milk and honey.

They had their chances to repent, to turn back to God, to follow the God who had saved them from slavery in Egypt. But once they hit a certain point, they had to choose. They had to choose if they were in or out. Just like for us, the day of the test will come, whether you're ready for it or not. The project will come due, the bill will need to be paid, the scan or surgery

will have to happen, the baby will be born. There is a day that is Today.

Today comes with that note of warning. But it also comes as encouragement. In Scripture the word “today” is most notably used in the speeches of Moses in Deuteronomy, his farewell sermon to the people of Israel before they enter the Promised Land. Today reminds them of the demands of the covenant on them today. It also appears at the end of Joshua, when they reaffirm the covenant after they've entered and conquered the promised land.

The ancient Greeks had two words for time. Chronos meant the ongoing march of time, day to day, week to week. But the Greek word Kairos meant “the right, proper, favorable time”. Kairos is, like when the tomato is ripe for you to pick, when it's smart time to buy or sell, or now, Kairos means an opportune time to summon faith's resources in affliction. Kairos is

“Today.” The time and season for carrying out this duty is given as “Today.” “Today, if you hear his voice.” Using the words of Psalm 95 quoted in Hebrews, we're reminded to make use of the present time, through faith and obedience, to be preserved from hardness of heart and final unbelief.

If you've ever seen the musical Rent, there's a line that makes its way throughout the musical, appearing in multiple songs.  
“There's only us/ There's only this/ Forget regret/ or life is yours to miss  
No other road/ No other way/ No day but today”

Perhaps this sounds a little nihilistic. To give a little context, the people singing these lyrics have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. In order to escape the fear of the future and what their

sickness will bring to them, they focus instead on the here and now. They focus not on whatever they wish they could've done, but instead on what they still have time to do. No other route lets them have hope or positivity. Anything else would probably send them into a depression, simply waiting for the end. But no. Today we stand together. Today is the day to live. No day but today.

In this way, the rebellion of Israel serves as a negative example for the church, to which we should listen, unless we fall as they did. That's the point the writer to the Hebrews is making when he says, "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God."

To prevent that, we exhort one another, we admonish one another, we encourage one another, to keep on in the way of faith: "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."

Christ is at work in His Church for each individual, but individuals cannot survive on their own. Christ has given us His Church and calls us to give each other His gifts "every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin". To be in the Body of Christ, receiving His gifts, is what it means to "share in Christ". It is there, with His Word placed in your ears and His body and blood placed on your lips, where He sustains you into life everlasting.

Today. The occasion when this duty, coming together to praise God, to remember all that has been done for us, is to happen. It is to be Today, or every day. A day is often used to indicate a period of time, so to do a thing daily is to do it at the right time. Although the expression denotes every day as a separate and distinct

day, its sense does not mean that a day should never go by when we do not discharge this duty to each other. We should always encourage each other, pray for one another, spend time in prayer and the Word. It is always the right time. It is always today.

We are people who live in "Today." We live in God's day of grace, a time of unparalleled opportunity, the time for hearing the voice of our Heavenly King and receiving the good things he gives us through His word.

Perhaps you've heard the anonymous inspirational saying, "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present." Sometimes today is all we have.

Today I don't know what tomorrow will bring. Today is right here, I can see it and I can feel it. I embrace it and I know that each breath I take is part of today. I can see today what I could not see then.

Today we share in Christ and embrace his call to journey with soft hearts, not hardened by yesterday's pain or arrogant by yesterday's triumph. We are confident in his work for us and in us; we are confident that if today we breathe our last breath we will rest in him alone, just as we do today and every day. We know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our lives will not ever be the same, but our hope, our rest and our confidence today is in Christ.

How will we hold our confidence in Christ firm to the end? By hearing God's voice today. Every day it is called "today" we are called to hear and receive and respond to the voice of the Lord. To respond in repentance and in faith.

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