

Provoked Patience

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So for the last 6 weeks we looked at Heb. 3:7-8 and have looked at the heart.</p> <p>— We understood what the biblical definition of heart is and that our hearts can be hardened by any number of things.</p> <p>— — We saw that a hardened heart needs God to work to tenderize it.</p> <p>— — — We also saw that we have an active role in the tenderizing of our heart as well.</p> <p>— — — — So hopefully God has started to work on your heart throughout that study and you have joined Him in the work being done.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>As I started to prepare for the sermon this week I looked at where we left off before we started our heart series.</p> <p>— In looking at what we had covered already and what we need to cover I realized something.</p> <p>— — We may be out of our heart series but we are not out of the passage that we were using in the heart series.</p> <p>— — — So, today, for the seventh week in a row we will be in Hebrews 3:7-11.</p> <p>— — — — We will not be talking about heart but what else does the passage tell us.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 3:7–10 (NASB95): 7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. 10 “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’; 11 As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”</p>	<p>In order to get into our passage this morning we have look back 7 weeks ago when Marc preached on Hebrews 3:4-6.</p> <p>— The final point in verse 6 is one that we need to remember before diving into our passage this morning.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Hebrews 3:6 (NASB95): 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house— <i>whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.</i></u></p> <p>— — — This hope is that which we have in Christ Jesus: <u>READ: Colossians 1:23 (NASB95): 23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.</u></p> <p>— — — — This hope from the gospel is also a hope of heavenly importance: <u>READ: Colossians 1:5 (NASB95): 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel.</u></p> <p>— — — — — This is a living hope! We were dead and we were made alive, born again, to a living hope: <u>READ: 1 Peter 1:3 (NASB95): 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>This blessed hope that we have: <u>READ: Titus 2:13 (NASB95): 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,</u> is because of Christ Jesus our Lord.</p> <p>— Verse 6 calls us to hold fast and firm to the hope we just talked about.</p> <p>— — In holding fast to hope we will not be like “them in the day of trial.”</p> <p>— — — A hopeful Christian is a professing Christ: <u>READ: 1 Peter 3:15 (NASB95): 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;</u></p>
	<p>So, this is why we have this “therefore” in verse 7, moving from a call to maintain hope to call to maintain the appropriate heart.</p> <p>— Then, we are given a quote from Psalms 95 of the failure of the Israelites to do these things.</p> <p>— — We are given an example of people who were unfaithful, who did not hold fast, who did not hold the hope, who hardened their hearts and who provoked and angered God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, we must take a moment to think about something here.</p> <p>—Verse 7 tells us that, “the Holy Spirit says,” well in chapter 1:1-2 we are informed of others who are speaking as well: READ: Hebrews 1:1–2 (NASB95): 1 <u>God</u>, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in <u>His Son</u>, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.</p> <p>— — So, once again the book of Hebrews points out our triune God, our 1 God in 3 persons.</p> <p>— — — God, is not sitting back and working a bit when He feels like it but He is actively involved in His creation.</p> <p>— — — — Not part of Him but all of Him is working and speaking to us.</p> <p>— — — — — God cares that much, are we listening to Him?</p>
	<p>We need to hear God’s voice: READ: Proverbs 8:4 (NASB95): 4 “To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.</p> <p>— God calls to all humanity but here the call is to believers in Christ to hear God’s voice.</p> <p>— — Arthur W. Pink wrote, “To ‘hear’ God’s voice signifies to attend reverently to what He says, to diligently ponder, to readily receive, and to heed or obey it. It is the hardening of our hearts which prevent us, really, hearing His voice.”</p> <p>— — — We know that the Israelites complained about not having water and this is when they were spoken of as hardening their hearts.</p> <p>— — — — They were consumed with their circumstance.</p> <p>— — — — — Their situation, their need, their want, their preference consumed them in such a way that they forgot about the goodness of God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>See this trial in the wilderness was not just a single moment.</p> <p>—Pink summed up this time like this: “In the wilderness of Sin they murmured for the want of bread, and God gave them manna. At Rephidim they murmured for the want of water, and question whether Jehovah was with them and He gave them water from the rock. In the wilderness of Sinai, soon after receiving the law, they made and worshipped a golden image. At Taberah they murmured for want of flesh and the quails were sent, followed by a dreadful plague. At Kadeshbarnea they refused to go up and take possession of the land of promise, which brought down on them the awful sentence referred to in the Psalm; and after that sentence was pronounced, they presumptuously attempted to do what they had formerly refused to do. All these things took place a little more than two years after they left Egypt.”</p> <p>— — This was not then end of Israel’s shortfalls. They continued and continued.</p> <p>— — — Moses reminds the Israelites: <u>READ:</u></p> <p><u>Deuteronomy 9:7 (NASB95): 7 “Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness; from the day that you left the land of Egypt until you arrived at this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.</u></p> <p>— — — — How does your life look? Is it landmark after landmark like Israel?</p> <p>— — — — — You Wake up in the morning and at bed post created new curse words as the toe is smashed, at the fridge you murmured about your family as you went to make toast and there were only heels of the bread, Pulled up to the gas pump and murmured about the state of the country and high price you have to pay at the pump, at South Bay murmured at the slow rate of travel, at NMC you murmured because pastor has been preaching for 45 minutes and there seems to be no end in sight.</p> <p>— — — — — What causes you to murmur?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Look at what Israel did: They provoked and tested God.</p> <p>— Instead of believing Him and the works that they saw Him do, they thought they had to test Him to see if He would live up to His promises.</p> <p>— — Pink wrote, “In particular men tempt God by two extremes: one is presumption, and the other is distrustfulness. Both these arise from unbelief. That distrustfulness ariseth from unbelief is without all question....Presumption....we shall find that men presume upon unwarrantable courses, because they do not believe that God will do what is meet to be done, in His own way.”</p> <p>— — — God is going to do it His way, not ours. His way is better than ours.</p> <p>— — — — We are the followers, He is the leader. We need to follow Him and let Him lead even when it does not make sense.</p> <p>— — — — — Does it make sense that if you hit that rock water will come out? No. That was not man’s way, that was God’s way.</p>
	<p>For 40 years they saw the work of God. God showed Himself to them over and over and over again.</p> <p>— William Hendriksen wrote, “Yet amidst rebelliousness for the people of Israel, God showed his mighty act.”</p> <p>— — God was not the one walking away in the relationship; He was there proving His love over and over again.</p> <p>— — — Some ways God showed His love were acts of Mercy. In delivering them from their enemies.</p> <p>— — — — God showed His love in acts of judgment. When we sent plagues on Egypt and closed the Red Sea.</p> <p>— — — — — Yet others were Him revealing Himself to them. We see this in the Cloud that lead them in the day and the Pillar of fire by night. He revealed Himself at Sinai.</p> <p>— — — — — — These are the works that happened right before them, in their life time they witnessed them.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>It does not matter what God does right in front of us if we are unbelieving, not paying attention, or only self focused.</p> <p>—We have a view of God in ways that Israel never got to see.</p> <p>— —Israel had the Law but His full word is here for us. He has nothing else to add and we have it.</p> <p>— — —We have God in the flesh, lived out the perfect life and provided salvation for us.</p> <p>— — — —He is the one that changes our hearts and causes us to repent.</p> <p>— — — — —Yet we, like the Israelites, have to make the choice to live for Him, to see the mighty works He does and marvel at them, or to discount Him and His mighty act of love for us.</p>
	<p>So, verse 10-11 tells us of God’s anger and His sentence handed down.</p> <p>—They preferred sin to subjection to the Lord.</p> <p>— —Notice the key to them bringing the anger of God on them; “they always go astray in their heart.”</p> <p>— — —It was sinful hardened hearts that was the first offense.</p> <p>— — — —They did not know the ways of God even though He was revealing Himself to them they did not see Him.</p> <p>— — — — —<u>READ: Psalm 145:17 (NASB95): 17 The Lord is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.</u></p> <p>— — — — —We need to long for God and meditate on the things He has done and does: <u>READ: Psalm 143:5–6 (NASB95): 5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your doings; I muse on the work of Your hands. 6 I stretch out my hands to You; My soul longs for You, as a parched land.</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So what do we take from this passage? What is our practical application?</p> <p>—God gives us time but that time will run out.</p> <p>—The patience of God comes to an end and the sentencing of God will come. So what are you doing with your time? Are you living for Him and serving Him? Or, are you serving self as the Israelites did?</p> <p>— —Are you hopefully maintaining a tender heart; or has your hope faded and your heart with it? The hope we have is because of Christ so if you are hopeless you need more Jesus in your life.</p> <p>— — —God is speaking; are you listening?</p> <p>— — — —What are the landmarks in your life? Are they pointing to God or to you?</p> <p>— — — — —Are you provoking God as Israel did? Is your way getting between you and the God of the universe? Or are you allowing God to lead no matter how different it looks from your way?</p> <p>— — — — — —Are you seeing the work and love of God in your life and see God show Himself to you and know Him better? Or are you missing it because you are not paying attention?</p>
	<p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p>