

Seeds

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So last week we talked a lot about shadows.</p> <p>—We covered that there are good shadows and there are bad shadows. Good shadows are things that God has used to point us to Christ; and bad shadows are things that the world and Satan use to get us focused on anything but God.</p> <p>— —We looked at how Christians are not to live in the shadows of the world but we are to see the shadows of God and follow Christ who is the truth.</p> <p>— — —We can tell the difference from these 2 different types of shadows by drawing close to God; this will help us not get distracted from reality and follow the wrong things which lead to passionless, loveless soul crushing work, and all of that breeds bitterness and anger.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>So, today we will look at what does the new covenant include.</p> <p>—How is the new covenant different from the old covenant?</p> <p>—We will see that the new covenant’s heavy lifting is done by Christ.</p> <p>—We will look at the fact that we are sinful. Yay....</p> <p>—We will see what it means to have God write His law on our hearts and put it in our minds.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 8:7–13 (NASB95): 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.</p> <p>8 For finding fault with them, He says, “Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;</p> <p>9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand To lead them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord.</p> <p>10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.</p> <p>11 “And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, And everyone his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ For all will know Me, From the least to the greatest of them.</p> <p>12 “For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more.”</p> <p>13 When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.</p>	<p>As we start looking into this covenant that Jesus, mediator between God and humanity, we need to understand that the old covenant could not save us.</p> <p>— The old covenant could not save us because of us.</p> <p>— — Andrew Murray wrote, “the fault of the old covenant is stated to be: “They continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.”</p> <p>— — — The old covenant was openly accepted especially in the beginning when the covenant was new but as it started to age, the people did not follow it as close.</p> <p>— — — — Then, we get to the place where they did not continue in God’s covenant.</p> <p>— — — — — The Israelites did not have the strength, will power, or whatever it is to live up to the covenant.</p> <p>— — — — — — Murray wrote this, “There was no power to continue; no power to conquer temptation or the evil heart; no power to remain faithful.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The bulk of our passage is a quote or restatement of Jeremiah 31:31-34: <u>READ: Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NASB95):</u> 31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. 33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”</p> <p>—So the remainder of chapter 8 is spent on this quote and explaining what is being said in it.</p>
	<p>So, the first point we learn from Jeremiah, and here in Hebrews, is that God will have a new covenant.</p> <p>—We know that the new covenant has come and it came with Christ.</p> <p>— — This covenant is not based on our power but on the power of the blood of Christ Jesus.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: 1 Corinthians 11:25 (NASB95):</u> 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”</p> <p>— — — — Its renewing element is the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: Titus 3:5–7 (NASB95):</u> 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>This new covenant is no longer dependent on humans but we are granted direct access to God the Father through God the Son.</p> <p>— So that our fellowship with God is not dependent on a priest or a human mediator.</p> <p>— — We have the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who will never grow weary of bringing us into the presence of God the Father.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: 1 Timothy 2:5–6 (NASB95):</u> 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: John 1:14–18 (NASB95):</u> 14 And the Word became flesh, and <u>dwelt among us</u>, and <u>we saw His glory</u>, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John *testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ ” 16 For <u>of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.</u> 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and <u>truth were realized through Jesus Christ.</u> 18 No one has seen God at any time; <u>the only begotten God</u> who is in the bosom of the Father, <u>He has explained Him.</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, the second point we learn from Jeremiah, and here in Hebrews, is that there was need of a new covenant.</p> <p>—George Guthrie wrote, “The reason for this change or arrangements is also given: Those led out of Egypt did not remain faithful to God’s covenant.”</p> <p>— — The Israelites should have known from the continual sacrifices that a final sacrifice and a final priest would have to come at some point.</p> <p>— — — The problem is that they did not see the final sacrifice and the final priest coming.</p> <p>— — — — Albert Mohler wrote, “Our greatest problem is sin, for it severs us from the presence of God. Our sin and his holiness are incompatible, yet God promised to reconcile sinful people to himself through the mediator who would inaugurate the new covenant. He chose to do this through his Son, Jesus Christ, the mediator who established the new covenant in his blood.”</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: Romans 6:23 (NASB95): 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.</u></p> <p>— — — — — The only thing in this life, that we have earned, if we are apart from Christ, is death. We can work as hard as we want apart from Christ and all it will get you is death and eternal death. The new covenant is all about Christ and Him providing a free gift to us that we don’t deserve but He freely gives all who would hand their lives over to Him.</p> <p>— — — — — — <u>READ: James 1:15 (NASB95): 15</u> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.</p> <p>— — — — — — — But God knowing the problem with humanity and knowing that we could not do this on our own sent the Son to be the savior of the world in the new covenant.</p> <p>— — — — — — — <u>READ: Luke 22:20 (NASB95): 20</u> And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The final point we learn from Jeremiah and here in Hebrews is that God will put His laws in our minds and in our hearts, He will be our God, and we will be His people.</p> <p>—Murray wrote, “There must be correspondence, harmony, between the sanctuary with the God that dwells there and the worshiper. But it is for this very purpose that Jesus, the Minister of the true sanctuary, is also the Mediator of the new covenant.”</p> <p>— — Jesus, in this role as Minister and Mediator, will make sure God’s law is in our minds and in our hearts, that God will be our God, and we will be His people.</p> <p>— — — There is a difference between the eternal law (this is the old covenant) and the internal law (this is the new covenant).</p> <p>— — — — What is being said is that in Christians, that external law is being transformed into an internal law not by the hard work of the Christian but by the work of Christ.</p> <p>— — — — — If you are devoting your life to Christ he is transforming who you are and writing His law on your heart; that inner most piece of you.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: Luke 6:45 (NASB95): 45 “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>When we are devoted to Christ He changes our minds from self seeking and self righteous to God seeking and selflessness.</p> <p>— In the movie Second Hand Lions there are these 2 grandpas and they are taking care of one of their grandchildren. There is a scene where they buy seeds from a traveling seed salesman. The salesman sells them corn, carrots, beets, and things like that. Problem was as all of it started to grow, it did not matter what it was supposed to be beets, lettuce, onions; it was all corn. Even though the salesman disguised corn seeds, they still grew up to be corn. The corn grew to be corn because the law of corn was written on its heart.</p> <p>— — Christ wants to write a new law on your heart and my heart.</p> <p>— — — He wants us to grow up to be something different than what the world is growing. He is trying to write a different law on our hearts and put it in our minds.</p> <p>— — — — So, what are you growing to be? Are you growing to be the world? Or are you growing to be a child of God?</p> <p>— — — — — Are you trying to be what you are not? Do you know you need to have Christ write His law on your heart but you are not letting Him?</p> <p>— — — — — — Murray wrote this, “the life of every creature acts with delight in accordance to the law of its Creator—that is, its inner nature.” What does your inner nature reveal about you?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>This personal relationship that we have with God is really the one of the great blessings of the new covenant.</p> <p>— But often times we forego this great blessing and allow our hearts to be corrupted by the world.</p> <p>— — We know that we need to allow Christ to change our hearts and our minds.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: Matthew 5:8 (NASB95): 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.</u></p> <p>— — — <u>READ: Hebrews 12:14 (NASB95): 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.</u></p> <p>— — — — Why can’t you see God? It has something to do with your heart.</p>
	<p>As verse 12 of Hebrews 8 tells us; God will be merciful to their iniquities, and He will remember their sins no more.</p> <p>— We can come to Him anytime and He will welcome us back and not remember our sins.</p> <p>— — We need to be a people marked by repentance and grace as we have been given so many chances by God when we mess up and we should give grace to fellow believers and even to non-believers because we have been given an abundance of grace.</p> <p>— — — Our old selves and old desires need to be obsolete like the old covenant and we need to put on the newness of the new covenant in Christ; new hearts— new desires/actions and a new mind— new way of thinking and seeing people and the world around us.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>—Stop living in the old covenant and thinking that is going to change who you are. The old covenant is an eternal covenant and changing the outside will not change the inside. Allow Christ to change the inside.</p> <p>— —Let go of your life—set your self down and pick up what Christ has for you. It is not about you, rather about Christ in you.</p> <p>—Know that you are sinful. Repent and renew often. Accept the new covenant in Christ. Rest, knowing that Christ paid the price for us that we could not pay and gave us new life. Accept it!!!</p> <p>—What kind of seeds are you planting in your heart? Are you planting seeds of the world in your heart that produce the world’s goods? Are you planting seeds of the world but you’re disguising them as godly seeds? Or are you planting godly seeds and watching the fruit of the spirit grow in your life?</p>
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