



## May 31, 2026

### Anchored in Covenant

- Hebrews is a book written to tired, worn out people who are thinking of giving up the whole Jesus thing.
- It's written to Hebrew people who are looking back at the Jewish faith, the Jewish way of life...and contemplating going back to it.
- And the Hebrews writer says in no uncertain terms: Don't you dare. Don't do it. The only way you lose is if you do that. No...keep going. Don't give up on Jesus.
- Your actions will always follow your focus. When we lose our focus, we can lose everything. Hebrews has told us how to focus: We fix our eyes on Jesus. Why? So that we don't drive off the mountain of life and die.

Today: Chapter 8. Turn there. Look at verse 1: *Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,*

- He says, "*This is the point!*" Jesus is better!
- There's more here. He wants you to be better too.
- What we're going to see, is that the old covenant didn't work.
- For you to be better, he's going to give you a new covenant with better promises.
- It will be possible when God gives you a new heart.

Hebrews 8:6-13 (ESV)

**6** But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

**8** For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah,

**9** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers  
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

For they did not continue in my covenant,  
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

**10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel  
after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws into their minds,  
and write them on their hearts,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

**11** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor  
and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’  
for they shall all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

**12** For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,  
and I will remember their sins no more.”

**13** In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Jeremiah 31 is a passage that looks forward to this new relationship that God will someday be able to have with his people.

- In this new relationship, there will be a **better motive to live rightly**.
- In this new relationship, there will a **better way of belonging**.
- In this new relationship, we will have a **better standing**.
- The Hebrews author is taking Jeremiah 31, written as a poem of hope for what will be true one day, and he's saying, *Remember what Jeremiah wrote? Guess what? Jesus has made this new relationship that we've hoped for since Jeremiah's day...true!*
- And what a difference this new relationship is going to make.
- From this text can I show you what this new relationship looks like?

When others go wrong, you'll have a new heart/desire.

Hebrews 8:8 (ESV)

8 For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,

when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel

and with the house of Judah,

- The old covenant didn't fail because it was faulty in some way. It failed because the people couldn't live up to it's demands.
- When someone goes wrong around us, our old heart says, *“Serves them right. They're getting what's coming to them. Good.”*
- But the new heart says something totally different. It's this: *Well, they went wrong...but so have I. And I know what Jesus had to do to cover my sin.*

Hebrews 8:1-2 (ESV) Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

- Look at verse 2. The new heart is the heart of Jesus. And what does Jesus do? Jesus serves.
- We learned this in Chapter 7:25: *He is able to save us completely, why? Because he lives to intercede for us.* He serves us by interceding for us to God.
- “Jesus serves me!” It is a ludicrous expression, but true. He serves you, and he does it even when you go wrong.
- So now when others around you go wrong, the new desire you'll have is what? To serve.

When things go wrong...you'll have a new heart/desire.

- When things happen that that seem senseless to us, we want to blame.
- We blame people . We blame God.
- But that's the old heart.

Hebrews 8:10 (ESV)

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws into their minds,

and write them on their hearts,

and I will be their God,

and they shall be my people.

- The new heart Jesus gives me compels me that I can't blame.
- That means I can know God deeply enough to trust him when bad things happen.
- The new heart believes "Everything is necessary that he sends. Nothing can be necessary that he withholds." -John Newton
- Why? Because he's the perfect Father, and we will all know him.

When I go wrong...there will be a new heart with new desires.

- How many of you have gone wrong? Even today? And it's still early.

Hebrews 8:12 (ESV)

12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,

and I will remember their sins no more."

Hebrews 8:12 (NIV)

12 For I will forgive their wickedness

and will remember their sins no more."

- When you fall and it's squarely on you because you did something dumb. Don't despair. Think. Use this line. Preach to yourself: *I will forgive their sins and remember their*

*wickedness no more.*

- Know you are forgiven in Jesus.

You have a King today in Jesus. He has given himself. He has given you his heart. You can now never be the same.

*Father, help us to live life with the new heart you given us. Give us new desires. Give us new appetites. Give us new dreams. Give us new work. Give us a new song. Change us to have the heart of Christ. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*