

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 163)

LESSON 37

Jesus Christ: “The Author and Finisher of Our Faith”

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| Hook | Understanding Hebrews is tricky—to get the full effect you need to understand Judaism, but at the same time, the author is putting that Judaism in a secondary place. Even so, the image of Jesus as compassionate High Priest proves compelling. |
| Manual Goal | To remind class members that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to his commandments |
| EGD Goal | To inspire class members to follow Jesus’ example of empathy and service as presented in the Letter to the Hebrews, and to motivate them to remain faithful in the midst of temptation. |
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I know these episodes are getting long, so I wanted to review how they are laid out:

1. Framing
2. New segment! “Two minute take home” wherein I make suggestions for what I consider the most important parts of teaching/discussion
3. Review the reading: Read the entire reading, chapter at a time, then commentary. This is the real substance of the episode, as I think it should be for a Sunday School podcast. (having these two sections accomplishes the purpose of the podcast, which is to create one product that is useful for as many people across as wide a spectrum as possible, and that includes people who want to listen to the entire reading while doing something else (I love cleaning while listening) and those who don’t have as much time (which is why I have the timeline and now the two minute take home)
4. Slightly longer discussion of key points (the kind that would go in a Sunday School lesson)
5. Then Scripture Study and Study Notes portion

Fund raising pitch: I am investing in the Olam Institute right now, working on logos, websites, etc. Lots of exciting projects coming up. Our largest supporter also had to cancel her subscription. We need donations more than ever! Please do what you can. (Way too much of my week is taken up working on the podcast, and there are other things I need/want to do, so it is your support that keeps me here ☺) [So go to the site and set up a monthly subscription or donation now!](#)

I. Sunday School

- a. Framing: Hebrews is eloquent and moving, but unless you understand Judaism, it is a bit like watching a foreign movie—you can mostly tell what is going on, but miss important nuance and details.
- b. Two-minute take home
 - i. What kind of Savior we have in Jesus (expressed in Jewish terms, which is unusual and I think powerful—think of the temple)
 1. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. (2:17-18)
 2. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (4:15-16)
 - ii. Stay faithful despite temptations to lapse
 1. And we want each one of you to show the same **diligence** so as to realize the **full assurance of hope to the very end**, 12 so that you may not become **sluggish**, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (6:11-12)
 2. Let us **hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering**, for he who has promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to **provoke one another to love and good deeds** (10:23-24)
- c. Review the reading
- d. Limitations of repentance? (10:26 “willfully persist in sin”)
- e. “Provoke each other to love and good deeds” (10:24)
- f. Jesus as compassionate High Priest

II. Scripture Study

- a. The authorship of Hebrews (Origen “God knows”, read section from ESV)
- b. Temple imagery in Hebrews (Jesus as High Priest, Yom Kippur)
- c. Supersessionism and anti-Judaism in the New Testament
- d. Book recommendation: Study Bibles: Harper Collins and ESV. Harper Collins is NRSV, ESV is its own translation (English Standard Version)

III. Study Notes

- a. In groups, out groups, empathy and imagination
- b. Provoking to love and good deeds (context and behavioral economics)

Past episodes on Faith/Faith in Jesus Christ:

<http://mormonsundayschool.org/024-book-of-mormon-lesson-46-ether-7-15/>

<http://mormonsundayschool.org/033-doctrine-covenants-lesson-7-first-gospel-principles-ordinances/>

<http://mormonsundayschool.org/127-faith-in-jesus-christ-nt-lesson-1/>

Nudge

Frans de Waal

Dan Ariely, Our Buggy Moral Code