



Week 4

February 26 – Jesus offers the best deal ever – Hebrews 8

Have you ever been caught in a bait and switch deal, or an agreement that looked too good to be true, and sure enough it was? What is the best or worst deal you have ever experienced?

Hebrews 8:6-9 - There is something troubling about a relationship with God based on keeping His rules.

But now He [Jesus] has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant [agreement, deal], which has been enacted on better promises. For if that first *covenant* [with the Hebrews] had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. For finding fault with them [the ancient Jewish nation], 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; NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS.

The first covenant depended on keeping the law of God – perfectly. A slip-up of any kind results in separation from God and bad consequences. Do you ever find it tempting to base your relationship with God on a standard of how good you are at keeping meeting His standards, or doing enough good things to outweigh your bad deeds? Is it hard for you to believe that it really doesn't work that way?

Hebrews 8:10-13 - Jesus offers us the best deal ever as He opens a way of connection for us into the family of God.

“For this is the [new] 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. “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. “For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Under this new grace agreement that Jesus is offering, how is it that He can make the law of God intuitive to us, giving us understanding of His ways that is embedded in our heart and mind? Do you find that happening in your life as you follow Jesus? How do you sense it?

What has the forgiveness of God meant to you in your life? Do you sense it, believe it, embrace it? It says that under this new agreement with God, He remembers our sins no more. Do you ever struggle with forgetting your sins in the way that God promises to forget your sins?

How do we keep from taking advantage of God's graciousness when we know that our relationship with Him is now based on love and not perfection?