

Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 02.01.15

Opener

What's one of the first things you remember learning as a child that has always stuck with you even though you probably haven't used it since that time (a song, a phrase, a saying)?

Read

Hebrews 5:11-6:1-3

Luke 18:9-14

Romans 3:20-22

2 Corinthians 5:21

Philippians 3:7-11

Engaging with God in a Group

Ask someone to read Hebrews 5:11-6:1-3 out loud for the group.

What are some of the challenges a 5-year-old graduating from Kindergarten would have with going directly, to say, the University of Texas to start working on her college degree? In what ways would the 5-year-old be vulnerable?

Discuss the idea that when we are vulnerable, we are easily led astray. This is the main concern of the author of the book of Hebrews.

- Have you ever heard someone say, "We left that church because the preacher was just giving us milk and not solid food (meat)"? What did you think they meant by that?
- Based on the passage we just read, how would the author of Hebrews define "milk" and how would he define "solid food"?
- How many of us sent our 18-year-olds off to college but they were spiritually equivalent to a young child? What kind of results might we expect? What

about Christians who are heading toward retirement years but they are immature and vulnerable spiritually. How well will they finish their lives out?

The Hebrews author says some of us are “slow to learn” (5:11). How have we experienced times when we felt we were “slow to learn” spiritually?

- How do you think it could be possible for a Christian who once was growing in their relationship with Christ to stop growing (5:13)? What might “not growing in Christ” look like?

Discuss the idea that the solid food of the Christian faith is the teaching about “righteousness” (Luke 5:13). See Luke 18:9-14; Romans 3:20-22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:7-11. What do these verses reveal to us about the teaching of righteousness?

Pete pointed out that the “elementary teachings” listed in Hebrews are not the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith but actually refer to popular Jewish or Old Testament themes. Can you think of some Old Testament stories or passages that relate to each of the six things he lists in Hebrews 6:1-3?

- If the list in Hebrews 6:1-3 was supposed to be about foundational Christianity do you notice anything missing here and if so what?
- How could we sometimes exchange Christ’s righteousness for our own version and how does this affect our spiritual growth?
- How do you know if the sermon you are listening to or the small group study you are doing is milk or solid food? (Not quality of presentation, but is it taking you into a deeper understanding of who Christ is?) Use this as a filter when hearing any message from any church.

Engaging with God Alone

Prayerfully ask the Lord for ongoing wisdom in discerning spiritual milk and spiritual meat.

Closing thoughts and prayer

Lord, in your mightiness and power and glory, provide us with spiritual meat so that we might know you better and walk in your ways.