

“Don’t Miss Out”  
Hebrews 5:11-14  
1/18/26  
Message 9

## Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Don’t Miss Out”

- **Illustration**

- **When we are young – We look forward to Millstones in our lives as we GROW**
  - Finally... I am tall enough to ride that ride - YES
  - Can’t wait to
    - Get my driver’s license
    - To be an adult
    - To get a job
    - To get married
    - To have kids
  - The desire to grow up is a normal part of any kid’s life!
    - You DON’T WANT TO MISS OUT
      - As a matter of fact - Growth is so important to us
        - That halted growth is universally regarded as a tragedy
    - Illustration – What this text is all about

- A baby in a diaper 1<sup>st</sup> B-Day eating cake... Adorable
  - A 70-Year-old in a Diaper eating cake... Sorry for the Image
    - Enough said...
- **The text before us**
  - Make sure you're growing – maturing in your walk with Christ

## • **Review**

- **Importance Of Hebrews**
  - **1. Connecting the Testaments**
    - Paul Quotes the OT –
    - If you don't understand the OT you will not be able to understand Hebrews
  - **2. Jesus is Superior**
    - Jesus is BETTER Than
      - The Prophets - Ch 1
      - The Angels - Ch 1-2
      - Moses - Ch 3
      - Joshua – Ch 4
      - The High Priest – Ch 5-9
      - The Tabernacle Ch 9
      - The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10

### ▪ 3. Encouragement - Don't quit

- The ultimate goal of the book
  - To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times, and help them to endure.
- **Last Time - Jesus Our GREAT High Priest**
  - Why Jesus is Our Great High Priest – Better the priesthood
    - He is in Heaven (4:14)
    - He is the Son of God (4:14)
    - He is without Sin (4:15)
    - He Provides us with Continual access to the throne of God (4:16)
    - Jesus Has A More Prominent Priesthood (5:1-6)
    - Jesus Has A Permanent Priesthood (5:6)
    - Jesus Has A Perfected Priesthood (5:7-9)
    - Jesus Has A Powerful Priesthood (5:10-11)
  - Paul has started to inform them about Melchizedek
    - But then he pauses in his explanation of Jesus and Melchizedek
    - BECAUSE many of his hearers have not grown enough spiritually to grasp his explanation

### • **This Morning 3 Warning on Don't Miss OUT**

- The Reason For Their Lack Of Growth v. 11
- The Results Of The Lack Of Growth vv. 12-13

- The Response That Is Needed v. 14

## **The Reason For Their Lack Of Growth v. 11**

- **1. Context v. 11a**

***Hebrews 5:11 (NKJV)***

***11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.***

- **The Third Warning**

- The third warning passage begins at
  - Hebrews 5:11 and continues through 6:20.

- **Review Warnings**

- Hebrews 2:1
  - Don't DRIFT
- Hebrews 3:12-13
  - Don't DOUBT
- Hebrews
  - Don't be DULL

- We are told throughout scripture that we must keep growing

- (Ephesians 4:11-16 / 1 Peter 2:1-2 / 2 Peter 3:18)

- **Today's Message The Warning is = DON'T GET STUCK**

- Always be growing
  - Getting stuck can happen to anyone –

- Yes - even pastors and church leaders

- **2. Their Dullness of Hearing Is Exposed v. 11b**

- **1. Since you have become dull of hearing v. 11b**

***Hebrews 5:11 (NKJV)***

***11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.***

- **Become**

- Greek: ***γίνομαι gínomai***
- Means: Primarily meaning to begin to be, that is, to come into existence or into any state
- In Context - The word “Become”
  - Indicates that they didn’t start out as dull of hearing,
    - But became that way.
  - Therefore, the writer to the Hebrews warns them again.

- **Dull**

- Greek: ***νωθρός nōthrós***
- Means: Slothful, sluggish, dull slow lazy idol
- This is a powerful indictment because it indicates a spiritual regression
  - “You have become dull of hearing”

- **2. How Does one “Become” Dull of hearing**

- **1. Starts with the Heart**

- It is not a problem with the Ears
  - They HEAR just fine
- It is a problem with the heart
  - The hearer isn't really interested in what God has to say.

- **2. New Believers don't start off this way**

- The Jewish people Paul is talking with did not start off this way

- **THEY BECAME DULL in Hearing**

- Most NEW believer Don't start off this way either
  - When you're first saved – There is a HUNGER
    - The Bible comes alive
    - You're learning new things
    - Things you have never heard before
- BUT Then Somethings happens
  - More on this in a minute
    - BUT something happens that DULLS our hearing
      - We must beware of the potential problems that can cause this

- **3. When a person is spiritually DULL of Hearing - They are Difficult to teach**

- Paul didn't go deeper into the topic of Melchizedek right away.
  - But he has to go back to basics
    - Because their spiritual condition made it hard to explain.
  - PLEASE NOTE
    - It wasn't that the message was too complicated
    - It was that the hearers were dull of hearing.
- Same today
  - There are Christians all over who are DULL of hearing
  - **They are very difficult to teach**
  - When they hear a convicting message
    - They CAST blame –
      - It's the church they – it just not for me...
        - It's my upbringing blaming parents
      - They COMPLAIN
        - They may even act super spiritual – may even act as if their problem is a spiritual problem with people
          - YET deep inside the problem is they are DULL of hearing
    - Tear down the messenger
      - That guy is a mess... do you know his problem is...

- Well look at their situation they have no room to talk...
- That message was HARSH, UNLOVING, LEGALISTIC

- **HEART CHECK**

- Hear me there are REAL problems in this world
- Yes - we may even be called to confront some of those problems
- BUT first make SURE it's NOT YOUR HEART problem
- A good portion of the time we will find it not someone else IT IS US
- **4. A Problem In The Modern Church**
  - A Problem I have addressed a gazillion and a half times
  - **There has been a Purposeful Dumbing down in the church**
    - **In order to attract "SEEKERS"**
  - SO We don't talk about
    - SIN, HELL, or ANY of the things NON-Believer does not want to hear –
    - We don't dig deep in theology
  - We just talk about the benefits...
    - God LOVES (YES HE DOES BUT)
    - Salvation without repentance

- Feel GOOD messages
- FUN Activities
- Entertainment
- This has NOT worked
  - Yes - It worked in making churches “LARGER”
    - BUT it did not work in making Disciples
    - **We now have a bunch of Sheep that think they are okay but are in reality DULL of hearing**
- Here is a Part of their PLAN
  - Keep sermon short - NO More than 30 min
  - Replace Theology with Feel-Good Messages
    - Sermons may focus on self-help
    - Positive emotions, and "what people want to hear" rather than the full scope of biblical teaching, including concepts like sin and repentance.
  - Entertainment over Worship
    - The Focus becomes the stage
      - Worship Becomes Entertainment
      - Worship Teams become Artist
      - A performance designed for the audience
      - Musicians are not always Christians – many times they are local musicians hired to perform

- Stage CENTERED Not God Centered
- Avoiding Complex and Controversial topics
  - To avoid conflict or anything that will alienate attendees (Consumers)
  - **Eschatology has become divisive**
    - Therefore, we don't address that Theology here...
  - And SO many More
- ALL This has LEFT the church – DUMB DOWN
  - Stuck on MILK
  - Not able to handle MEAT
  - Illustration
    - The Tale of 2 Visitors
      - Gospel Of Mark
        - Last Chapter – Some very deep issues there
      - 1. A Christian Man visiting...
        - Looking for a church that was not too detailed a more feel-good message
      - 2. A Gals first time at church...
        - BUT was a linguistic expert
- **6. The MAIN Purpose For the CHURCH**

- Discipleship!
  - Equip Saints for the Work of the Ministry

- **Remember – Smith “What you win them with is what you win them too”**

**Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)**

**18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

**19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

**Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)**

**11** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

**12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

**13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

**14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

**15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

**16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- We Will DEAL with the WHOLE Bible

**Acts 20:26–27 (NKJV)**

**26** Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

**27** For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

**The Results Of The Lack Of Growth vv. 12-13**

- **1. By this time v. 12a**

**Hebrews 5:12 (NKJV)**

**12** *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

- **1. According to the time they had been followers of Jesus,**
  - They should have been much more mature than they were
    - You're an adult now – and yet still in diapers
    - Application
      - Being a Christian for MANY years does not guarantee SPIRITUAL GROWTH
      - Illustration
        - A sign of this is
          - They have known God for many years may even be able to quote scripture
          - BUT when they speak of God moving in their lives it is the PAST – not in the present
        - A maturing Christian –
          - Yes talks of God moving in the past but also in the present

• **2. You ought to be teachers v. 12b**

**Hebrews 5:12 (NKJV)**

**12** *For though by this time **you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

- **As a Matter fact**

- You guys should not only be done with Milk –
  - You should be on meat and teaching
- NOTE
  - Now Paul is not saying everyone is going to be a leader or a pastor
    - BUT all Christians should grow in their walks to be able to teach

▪ **All believers have the responsibility to teach**

- To pass on to others what they've learned about our Lord
  - Fathers are exhorted in “teach...diligently” their “children” (Deut. 6:6-7)
  - Older women are to “teach” younger women the basics about marriage and family (Titus 2:3-5)
- ALL
  - Have you ever heard the phrase

▪ **“Healthy sheep beget healthy sheep”**

- That means, as Christians we're all called to mature and come to a place where we can give away what we have to others
- To our families, to our friends...anyone who will listen

▪ **We must reproduce – Are you reproducing?**

- As a Pastor

- If I See Christian Engaged and Active in Faith I know I don't have to worry
- BUT when all they do is come and take... I know it only a matter of time before a problem comes

• **3. You need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God v. 12c**

***Hebrews 5:12 (NKJV)***

***12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.***

○ **At this stage of your Christin Life**

- You should be on MEAT – TEACHING

- YET I need to take you back to the basics

- NOTE

- A difference between reminding ourselves of the Basics and NEEDING to actually teach them again like they have never been heard!

• **4. A contrast between milk and solid food v. 12d**

***Hebrews 5:12 (NKJV)***

***12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.***

○ **You Still need MILK**

- By now they should be ready for some steak – a Double Double – but they were still sucking on a bottle
- A baby in diapers eating...

- A 70 year old in diapers...
- AKA
  - Paul is Saying to them
  - IT IS PAST TIME YOU GREW UP

• **5. For he is a babe v. 13**

***Hebrews 5:13 (NKJV)***

***13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.***

○ **1. For he is a BABE**

- Greek – “For he is a babe”
  - The Greek phrasing suggests a transition rather than a fixed state—someone “has become” a babe rather than simply “is” one
- **Have you become a babe?**
  - Your Christian life is unstable.
    - Your tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14-16).
  - You are divisive in your Christian life.
    - Babies can be very selfish
  - Your Christian life looks like your Asleep in the LIGHT
    - Babies need a lot of sleep, and spiritual babes spend much time spiritually asleep.
  - Your Christian life filled with Complaining

- Perhaps you are fussy and cranky with others.
- Babies can be cranky, and spiritual babes will fuss over any little thing.
- **2. Unskilled In The Word Of Righteousness**
  - **The phrase “the word of righteousness” has been understood in 2 ways—**
    - One doctrinal and the Other practical
  - **1. Doctrinal**
    - Those who think the emphasis is doctrinal argue that being “unskilled in the word or teaching about righteousness”
    - The doctrine of imputed righteousness
      - Christ’s righteousness is transferred on us at conversion
    - Those who take this view say one must clearly understand this doctrine before it is possible to eat further food
  - **2. Practical**
    - They argue that what verse 14 says about exercising and using what we know –
    - Say this is talking about righteous conduct
  - **3. I personally believe it is both**
    - Critical in our GROWTH
      - Understand our Position IN CHRIST

- BUT GROW in personal RIGHTEOUSNESS / SANCTIFICATION
- Sadly
  - The person who is still feeding on the basics
    - Will STRUGGLE WITH BOTH
    - If I don't understand at the moment I got saved – I RECEIVED, the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God
    - They will be prone to fall into legalism – trying to monitor their Christian life – thru abstinence
    - Reduce the Christian life to a series of Do's and Don'ts
- That was the problem these Hebrew believers were up against
  - They hadn't progressed – they were not moving forward
  - They didn't understand grace – and how it affects your passion for righteousness

• **6. Application – How Does a Christian BECOME DULL Of Hearing dull**

- **1. Unrepented Sin & Compromise**
  - Holding onto known sins creates a barrier to intimacy with God
  - Resisting the voice of the Holy Spirit – our conscience becomes Dull
- 2 Samuel 12:7

- David after Bathsheba incident “You are the man”
- 1 Timothy 4:2
- **2. Spiritual Pride / Complacency - Lukewarmness**
  - **Becoming too comfortable and losing passion, LAZY**
    - Rev 3 - Church of Laodicea

**Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)**

**17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—**
- They said we are rich and have it together!
- But Jesus is standing outside of His Church knocking to get in
- Poor, miserable, blind, and naked! LUKEWARM –
  - No Fire / No Passion / Stuffy
  - This can happen to a person who because they have a certain degree of Knowledge or have been in the Church a significant period of time, think I have it all together
- **3. Cares of the World**
  - **Parable of Sower! Matthew 13**
    - Seed sown among thorns the Word was choked out –
      - Become unresponsive to it by getting focused on cares of world / pursuit of riches
    - People just get distracted from the things of the Lord –

- Can't make it to Bible study – have to work too Late  
To much to do Wrong Priorities
- Hear me please
  - Life HAPPENS to everyone
  - God must be your LIFE
  - No excuses
  - If you find yourself making excuses for putting God on the back burner than you are becoming DULL of HEARING
- **4. Fear**
  - Fear of change, the unknown, or the responsibilities that come with growth.
    - Being closed off, judgmental, or fighting against experiences instead of learning from them.
  - Paralyzed BY YOUR PAST
- **5. Busyness**
  - Church of Ephesus

**Revelation 2:2–4 (NKJV)**

**2** “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

**3** and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

**4** Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

- A packed schedule that leaves no room for personal devo time with God
- You are a MARTHA

- Neglecting Disciplines: Skipping prayer, Bible reading, or silence.

***Luke 10:38–42 (NKJV)***

**38** *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.*

**39** *And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.*

**40** *But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."*

**41** *And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.**"*

**42** ***But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."***

▪ **Application**

- I believe this to be ONE of the BIGGEST problems in the church today!
  - To busy to sit still before GOD –
- Encouragement
  - Mandatory – Personal Devos With God EVERYDAY
    - Make SURE it is Happening
    - NO EXCUSES – Jesus was in great demand but He always had time with His Father
  - SLOW DOWN
    - TURN OFF THE WORLD
- SABBATH REST

- Take TIME A day A Week at the very least a FEW hours
  - Bible, Pen, Paper, that's IT
    - Ask God to Speak to you
    - Make it a routine

### **The Response That Is Needed v. 14**

- **1. Who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil:**

#### ***Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV)***

***14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

- **1. Meaning**
  - By Exercising (obeying) the light they receive from God's word
    - These people are able to form spiritual judgments and save themselves from moral and doctrinal dangers
    - Like a muscle – use is or lose it
- **2. Application**
  - **There is the great deception in the Church today –**
    - Knowledge = Maturity
      - We go to Bible studies – listen – radio – internet – podcast
        - We think - Intake = Maturity and Health
          - This is GOOD so far BUT

- There has to be an outflow – USE of it!
  - Maturity comes when we take God's word and put it to use
  - If you don't Exercise / use your know knowledge
  - You become like the DEAD Sea
  - The Dead Sea is dead because there is no outlet
- **That is whom solid food is for –**
  - The ones who put God's Word into practice
    - Person who says –
      - How can I apply this right now
        - Pray it in right then
- **The phrase “by reason of use” is very interesting**
  - At that time the same phrase was used to describe the way that athletes trained for the Olympic Games
    - It refers to training by repetition
      - Doing the same technique over and over again until it is perfected to the highest degree possible
        - It's a known fact that humans learn and perfect skills by repetition
        - It becomes second nature
  - Spiritual maturity happens by reason of use
    - Taking God's word and applying it to our daily lives – by repetition – How does it apply here

## **Closing**

- The Christian Walk ONLY has one direction Forward – If your not going forward with Christ
  - You are going backwards
  - If you are going backwards – YOU will run the risk of Shipwrecking your faith
  - Don't be DULL of HEARING
  - Don't MISS OUT
- Let all commit to Growing this year