

Treasure Hunt

Heb 12:14-17

1. What two exhortations does the writer give us for considering one another?
2. What teaching of our Lord does each reflect?
3. Ben: Why is it important to pursue holiness as well as peace (12:14)?
4. Nate: What role in the church does the word “looking diligently” recall?
5. In the context of Hebrews, how might someone “miss out on the grace of God”?
6. What danger does the last clause in v. 15 anticipate?
7. Elijah: What is the central sin of Esau that the writer has in mind?
8. Michael: How does that sin make him a “fornicator”?
9. Faith: What “repentance” did Esau fail to find?
10. Caitlin: Why do apostates usually not “find place for repentance”?

Structural Context

10:32-13:19, The Life of the Sons of God

10:32-12:24, Living in the World

10:32-39, Example & Exhortation

- 32-34, Example
- 35-39, Exhortation

11:1-40, Examples (indicative)

12:1-24, Exhortation (imperative)

12:25-29, Warning

13:1-19, Living in the Church

12:1-24, Exhortation (imperative)

- 1-2, The final witness
- 3-11, Consider Jesus
- 12-24, Consider one another
 - 12-13, Encourage the Weak
 - 14-17, Watch for Apostates
 - 18-24, Remember the Mountains

	12:12-13, Encourage the Weak	12:14-17, Watch for Apostates
Imperative(s)	12 Lift up hands ... knees 13 Make straight paths ...	14 Follow peace ... holiness 15 Looking diligently ...
“Lest”	Lest that which is lame be turned ...	15 lest any man fail ... lest any root of bitterness ... 16 lest there be any fornicator ...

Matthew 18, Our Lord's Instructions for the Church

Matt 18:12-14, The Wayward Lamb

10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. 11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. 12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. **14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.**

Heb 12:12-13, Encourage the Weak

Based on Isaiah 35

Matt 18:15-17, The Persistent Rebel

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, **let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**

Heb 12:14-17, Watch for Apostates

Based on Deuteronomy 29

References for Heb 12:14-15a

Pursue διώκω G1377

Peace and **Holiness**

Psa. 34:14 LXX Depart from evil, and do good; seek **peace**, and **pursue** it. 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the **righteous**, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Rom 14:19 Let us therefore **follow after** the things which make for **peace**, and things wherewith one may **edify** another.

15 Looking diligently ἐπισκοπέω G1983

1Pet. 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, **taking the oversight** thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

Echoes of Deut 29 in Hebrews 12

Theme	Deuteronomy 29	Hebrews 12
Apostasy	18a Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations;	15b lest any man fail of the grace of God (cf. Gal. 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.)
Spreading Bitterness	18b lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;	lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled
Loss of Blessing	19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.	16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Understanding Esau

17c though he sought it carefully with tears

Gen. 27:38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

17b for he found no place of repentance

Gen. 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; **then will I slay** my brother Jacob.

Heb 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin.

1Tim. 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared** with a hot iron;

2Tim. 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will **give them repentance** to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.