

## **Jesus is Greater: A study of Hebrews**

Week Twenty  
Jesus is our greater ethic  
Hebrews 13:1-6  
Pastor Davis Johnson

May 23rd, 2021 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)

### Text

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. 3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

6 So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?”

### Notes

- **Introduction**
- **The principles**
  - Instructions/principles for the community
    - Let love continue
      - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves  
Romans 12:10
    - Show hospitality to strangers
      - “It is useful to limit the meaning of “hospitality” to benevolence done to those outside one’s normal circle of friends, as is implied in the literal meaning of the Greek word (“love of strangers”).”  
David K. Huttar, “Hospitality,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1006.
      - “Let God use your home, apartment, dorm room, front yard, community gymnasium, or garden for the purpose of making

strangers into neighbors and neighbors into family. Because that is the point—building the church and living like a family, the family of God.”

Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*

- Remember those in prison
  - John Mosley as example in Last Chance U: Basketball Edition
- Hold marriage in high honor
  - “In several treatments of NT ethics sexual immorality and covetousness are treated in tandem, as they are in 13:4–6 (2 Cor. 5:10–11; Eph. 4:19; 1 Thess. 4:3–6). Both sins involve a gross self-centeredness that inherently disparages God’s care and provision.”  
George H. Guthrie, “Hebrews,” in *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, UK: Baker Academic; Apollos, 2007), 991.
- Be content
  - Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.  
Luke 12:15

- **The posture to hear**

- Approach/attitude of hearing
  - Batman theology = not good
- Understanding indicatives and imperatives -- need to get them in the right order!
  - In every other religion the indicative flows from the imperative. Which means, 'because I do, therefore I am... Because I do this, therefore I'm a child of God.' But only in Christianity does the imperative flow from the indicative. 'Because I am in Christ all these things, therefore I obey.' Exactly the opposite.”

- **The power to do and be**

- What we need in order to be able to do what this passage instructs
  - The presence of God
    - Hebrews 13:5-6
      - because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” 6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”
  - First place we hear these words
    - Genesis 28:12-15
      - 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord.

- I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.
  - Jesus interprets this passage in John 1:51
    - Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man.
    - The ladder is his cross!!
      - The gospel as the power for ethics
      - Jesus as our hope
  - Ephesians 4:32
    - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
      - The gospel is explicitly articulated or implicitly assumed in EVERY ethical command
      - This is huge!
  - Consider then, Hebrews 13's ethical principles in light of the cross
    - Jesus honored his vows, he never wavered in his pursuit of you
    - Jesus remembered you in prison
      - And took on your death sentence!
    - Jesus welcomed you when you were a stranger
    - This is what love is: the cross of Christ
      - 1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters
- Gospel Application
  - Are you letting Jesus and his cross put an end to your ethical scorekeeping?
  - Where can you let the power of the gospel instruct you this week?





SAY OUR NAMES

TERRENCE CRUTCHER JEREMY M...  
TAMIR RICE PHILANDO CASTLE  
AKAI GURLEY KENDRA JAMES FREDDIE GREY  
MICHAEL BROWN TERRANCE FRANKLIN  
TYISHA MILLE BREONNA TAYLOR AL...  
ERIC GARNER SHANTEL DAVIS WI...  
SANDRA BLA... WALTER SCOTT  
TAMIA... REKIA BOY...  
YVETTE SM...  
SHELLY FP...  
JAMAR CL...  
TANISHA A...  
TARIKA WILL...  
ALTON STE...  
KORRYNGA...  
KATHRYN...

GEORGE

FLOYD

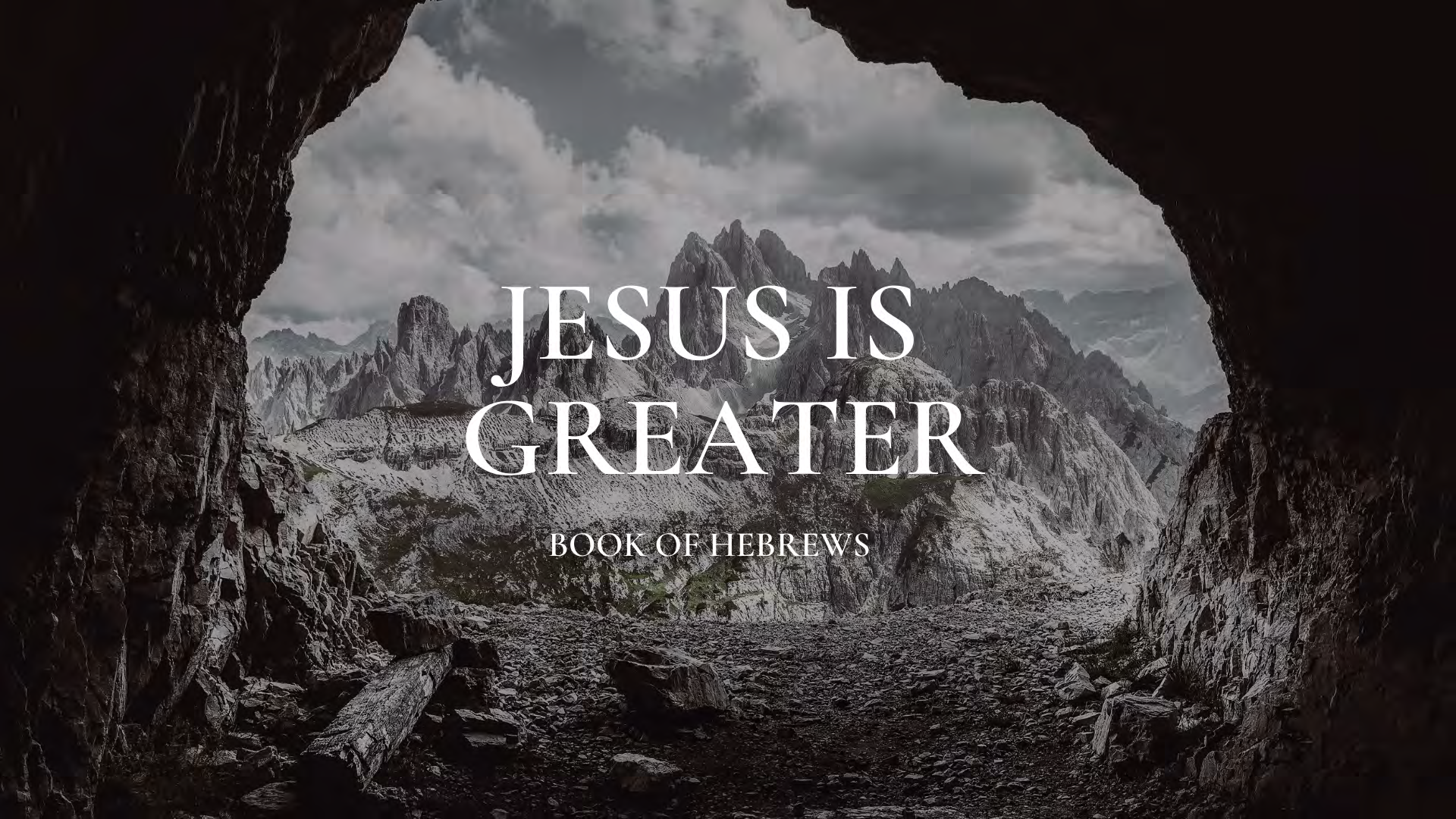
I CAN BREATHE NOW

MAY 25, 2020

KENNA GOSWAMI DANIEL WALKER GRETA MCLENNAN NIKO ALEXANDER NAJIA TANIER PHILIP LUN HERNANDEZ





A dramatic landscape viewed through a cave opening. The scene features jagged, rocky mountains under a cloudy sky. The foreground is a rocky path leading into the distance. The text "JESUS IS GREATER" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font, and "BOOK OF HEBREWS" is overlaid in a smaller, white, serif font below it.

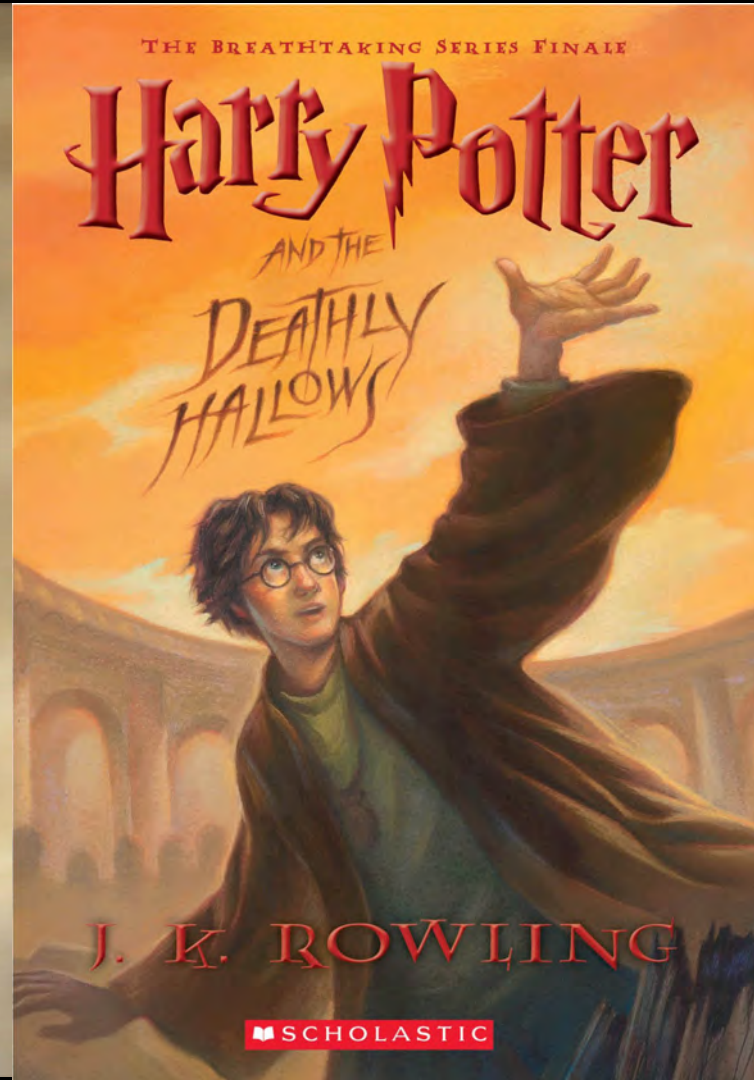
# JESUS IS GREATER

BOOK OF HEBREWS





"The scar had not pained Harry for nineteen years. All was well."







THE BREATHTAKING SERIES FINALE

atter

J. K. ROWLING

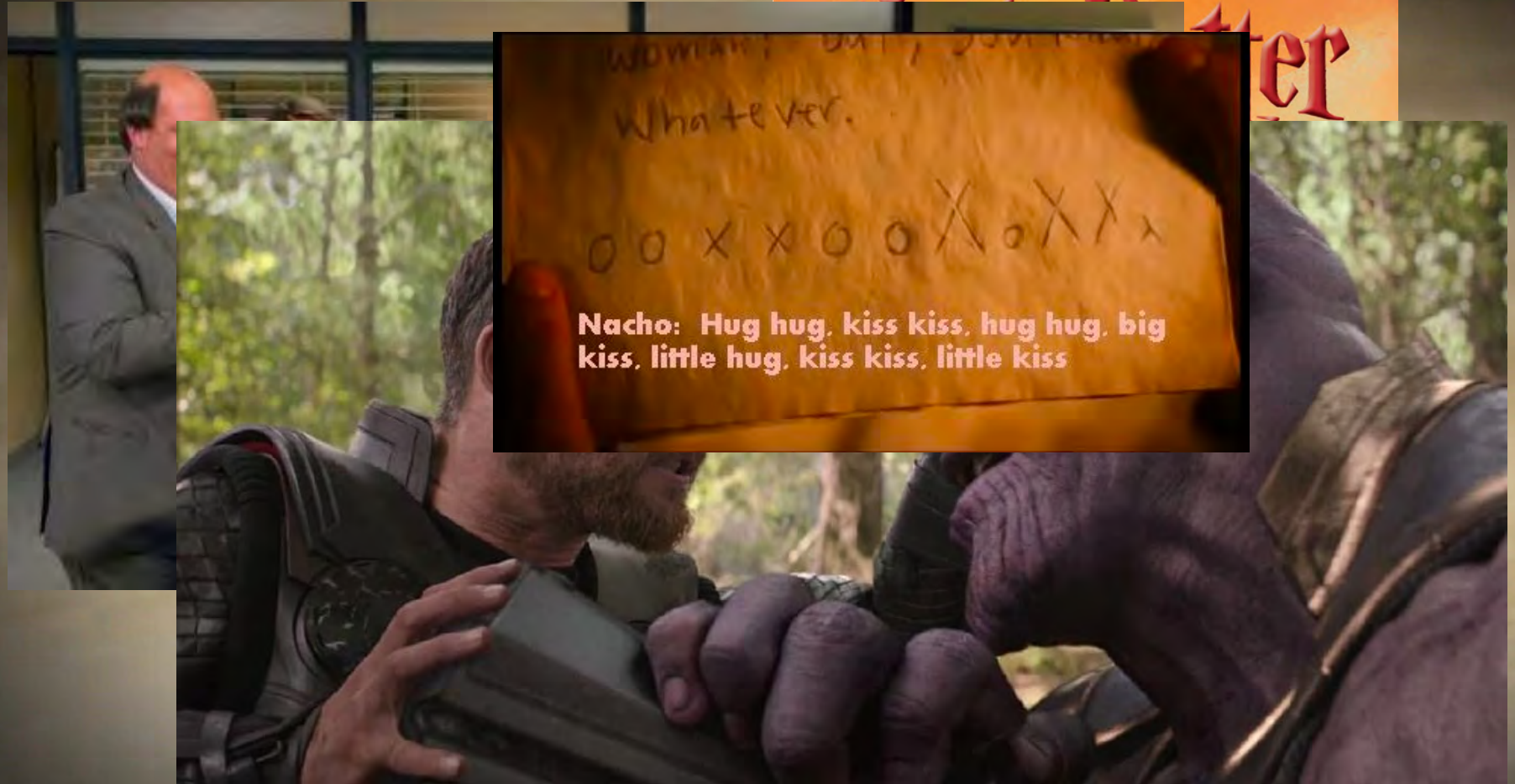
SCHOLASTIC

THE BREATHTAKING SERIES FINALE

After







WOW! What a day, just what I  
Whatever.

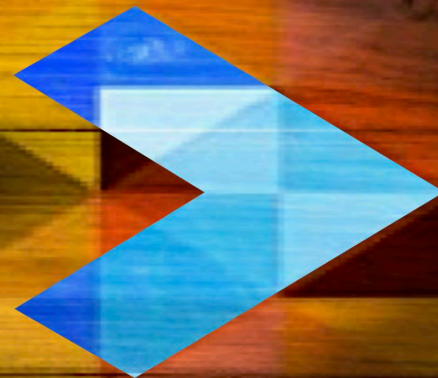
O O X X O O X X X X

**Nacho: Hug hug, kiss kiss, hug hug, big  
kiss, little hug, kiss kiss, little kiss**



# JESUS

## GREATER THAN



**Jesus > OT Prophets**

**Jesus > Angels**

**Jesus' Gospel > Old Testament Law**

**Jesus = 100% Human & Jesus = 100% God**

**Jesus > the situations OT prophets wrote about**

**Jesus > Moses**

**Jesus' Salvation > Moses' Exodus**

**Jesus' Rest > Moses' Promised Land**

**Jesus > all previous priests**

**Jesus > Religion & Religiosity**

**Jesus = Ransom, Future Hope & Our Rest**



## Hebrews 13:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.



## Hebrews 13:1-6

<sup>4</sup> Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

# Hebrews 13:1-6

1. The principles
2. The posture to hear
3. The power to be and do

# Hebrews 13:1-6

#1: Let love continue

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.



#1: Let love continue

Be devoted to one another in  
love. Honor one another above  
yourselves

Romans 12:10

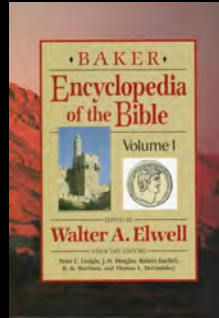
# Hebrews 13:1-6


## #2: Show hospitality to strangers

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

It is useful to limit the meaning of “hospitality” to benevolence done to those outside one’s normal circle of friends, as is implied in the literal meaning of the Greek word (“love of strangers”).

David K. Huttar, “Hospitality,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1006.





Radically ordinary hospitality characterizes those who don't fuss over different worldviews represented at the dinner table. The truly hospitable aren't embarrassed to keep friendships with people who are different...



Let God use your home, apartment, dorm room, front yard, community gymnasium, or garden for the purpose of making strangers into neighbors and neighbors into family. Because that is the point—building the church and living like a family, the family of God.”

Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*



# Hebrews 13:1-6

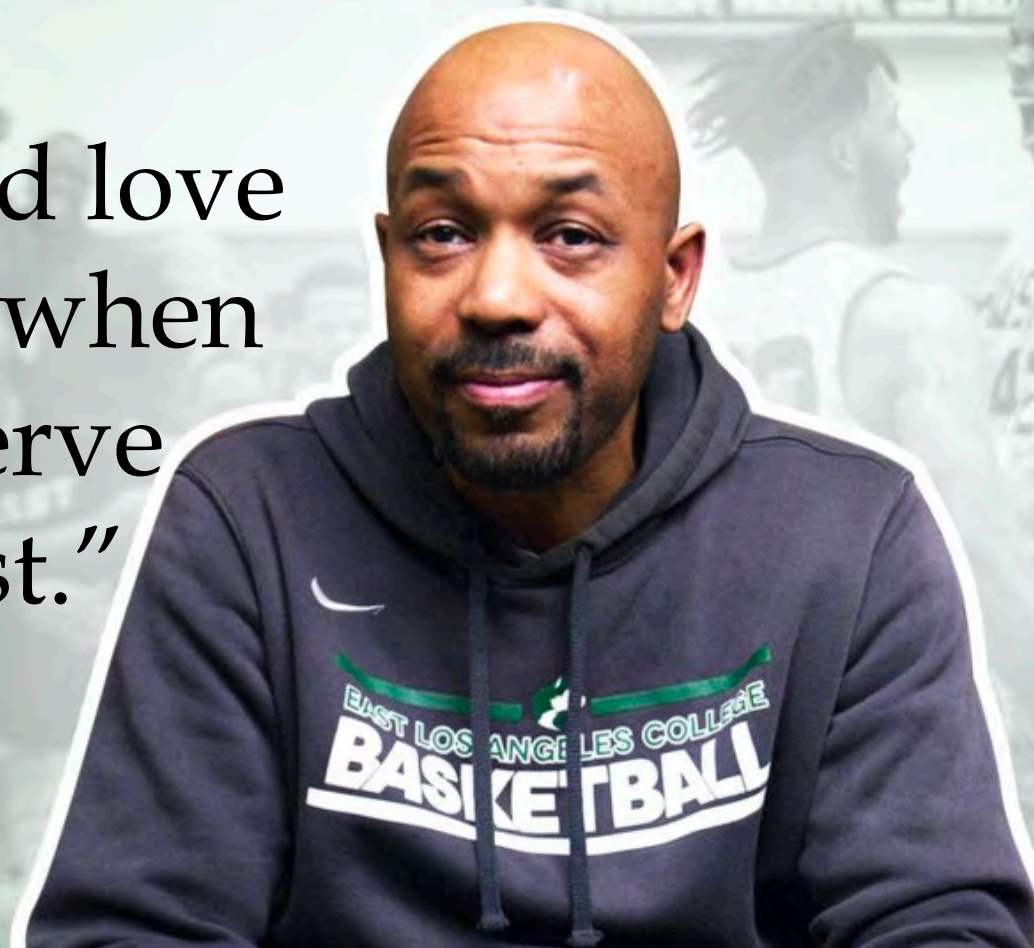
## #3: Remember those in prison

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.



John Mosley,  
Last Chance U

“They need love  
the most when  
they deserve  
it the least.”



John Mosley,  
Last Chance U



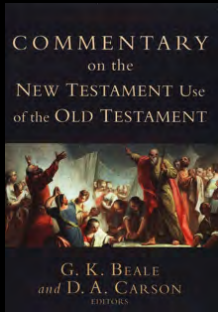
# Hebrews 13:1-6

#4-5: Hold marriage in high honor/ Be content

<sup>4</sup> Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

<sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

“In several treatments of NT ethics sexual immorality and covetousness are treated in tandem, as they are in 13:4–6 (2 Cor. 5:10–11; Eph. 4:19; 1 Thess. 4:3–6). Both sins involve a gross self-centeredness that inherently disparages God’s care and provision.”



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Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Luke 12:15

# Hebrews 13:1-6

1. Let love continue
2. Show hospitality to strangers
3. Remember those in prison
4. Hold marriage in high honor
5. Be content





**IT'S NOT WHO I AM UNDERNEATH  
BUT WHAT I DO THAT DEFINES ME.**

**CHRISTIAN BALE**



**IT'S NOT WHO I AM UNDERNEATH  
BUT WHAT I DO THAT DEFINES ME.**

**CHRISTIAN BALE ?**



Ethical Scorecard	Grade
Let love continue	A+
Show hospitality to strangers	B -
Remember those in prison	D -
Hold marriage in high honor	C+
Be content	B

Indicatives & Imperatives

Indicatives & Imperatives



True



Do



In every other religion the indicative flows from the imperative. Which means, 'because I do, therefore I am... Because I do this, therefore I'm a child of God.' But only in Christianity does the imperative flow from the indicative. 'Because I am in Christ all these things, therefore I obey.' Exactly the opposite."

- Tim Keller



# Hebrews 1-12

**JESUS**  
**GREATER THAN**



Jesus > OT Prophets

Jesus > Angels

Jesus' Gospel > Old Testament Law

Jesus = 100% Human & Jesus = 100% God

Jesus > the situations OT prophets wrote about

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Jesus' Salvation > Moses' Exodus

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Jesus = Ransom, Future Hope & Our Rest

# Hebrews 13

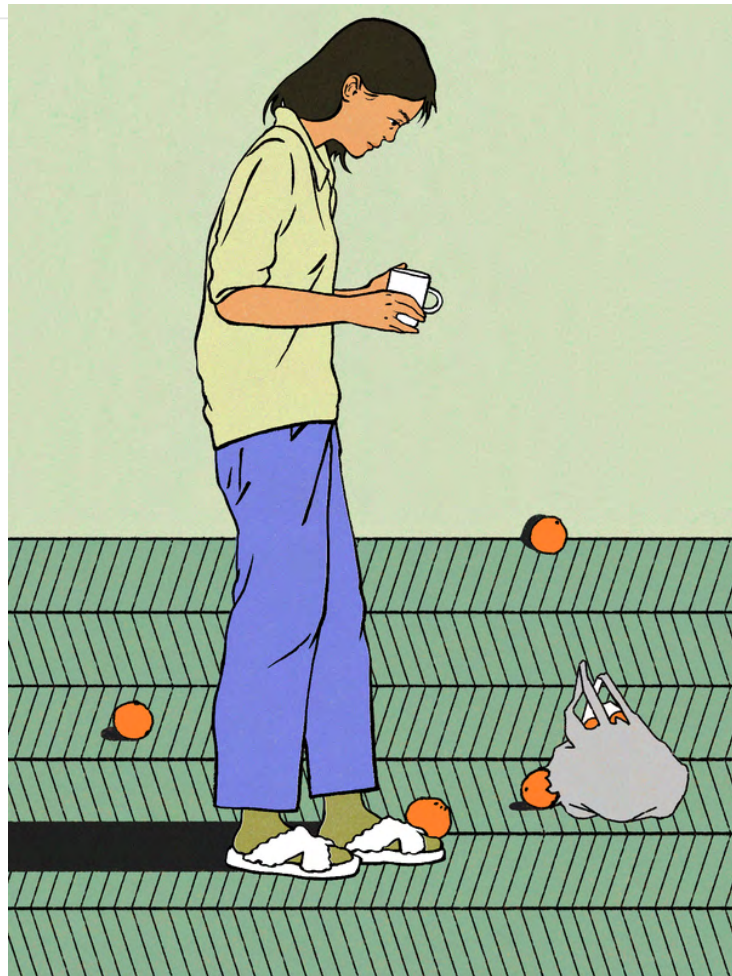


# There's a Name for the Blah You're Feeling: It's Called Languishing

The neglected middle child of mental health can dull your motivation and focus — and it may be the dominant emotion of 2021.



“Languishing is a sense of stagnation and emptiness. It feels as if you’re muddling through your days, looking at your life through a foggy windshield.”



## Hebrews 13:1-6

<sup>4</sup> Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

# Genesis 28:15

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.





# Genesis 28:12-13

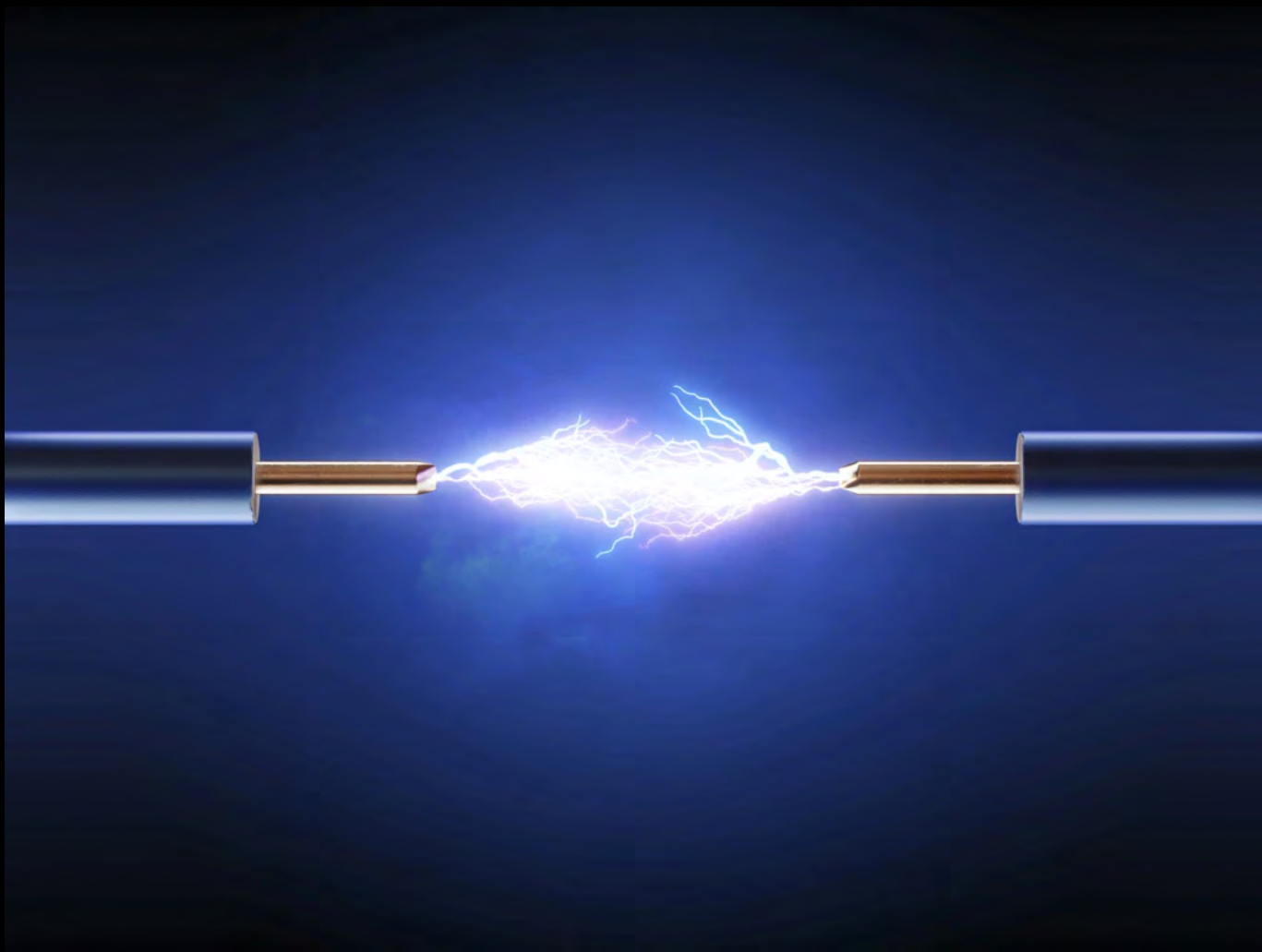
<sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it stood the Lord.



John 1:51

Very truly I tell you, you  
will see 'heaven open, and  
the angels of God  
ascending and descending  
on' the Son of Man.






# Ephesians 4:32

<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other

# Ephesians 4:32

<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.





# Hebrews 13:1-6

#4-5: Jesus honored his vows, he never waivered

<sup>4</sup> Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

<sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”



# Hebrews 13:1-6

#3: Jesus remembered you in prison

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# Hebrews 13:1-6

#2: Jesus welcomed you when you were a stranger/enemy

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# Hebrews 13:1-6

#1: This is what love is: the cross of Christ

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

#1: This is what love is: the cross of Christ

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters

1 John 3:16

## THREE SMALL WORDS

"[Treasure] these words of mine in your heart and in your soul." Deuteronomy 10:18 (ESV)

What words does God want you to treasure in the deepest part of you?

"Be good"? "Do it better"? "Try harder"?  
Are those the words God wrote in the Bible for us, to rescue and free us?

No. Those words only show us what we can't do.

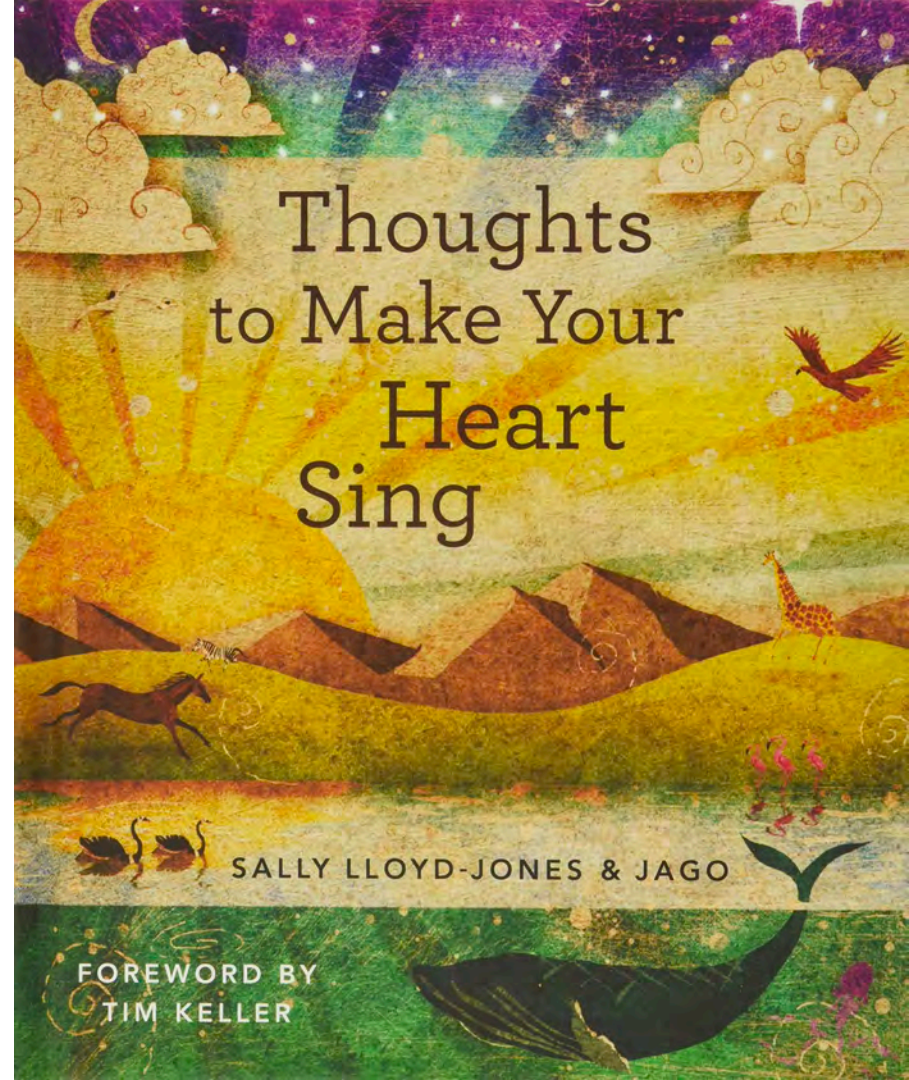
The words God wants us to remember are just three small ones: "I love you!"

They are the words that stop the Terrible Lie that Satan whispered to Eve in the garden: "God doesn't love you!" They are the words that heal the poison in our hearts that stops us from trusting God.

They are the words that Jesus came to tell us with his whole life.

They are the words he died to prove.

What words will you treasure today?





# Gospel Application

- Are you letting Jesus and his cross put an end to your ethical scorekeeping?
- Where can you let the power of the gospel instruct you this week?