

**Lenten Devotional Reflection**  
**13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 (Lent Day Fifteen)**

**Scripture: Hebrews 3:7-End New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
as on the day of testing in the wilderness,

9 where your ancestors put me to the test,  
though they had seen my works 10 for forty years.

Therefore I was angry with that generation,  
and I said, ‘They always go astray in their hearts,  
and they have not known my ways.’

11 As in my anger I swore,  
‘They will not enter my rest.’”

12 Take care, brothers and sisters,[h] that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. 15 As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

16 Now who were they who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? 17 But with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

**Message**

We sometimes read of the ancient Israelites and are aghast at how quickly they turn against God.

Within days of crossing the Red Sea on dry grounds, they start complaining. They long for the days of their slavery in Egypt when they “sat around pots of meat and ate all the food [they] wanted” (Exd 16:3). Really? While Moses was receiving the law and the instructions, they build the gold calf. They grumble throughout their wandering in the wilderness, and none except Joshua and Caleb make it to the Promised Land.

But our hearts are no different from theirs.

John Calvin said that our hearts are idol factories. And whenever I sing ‘Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love’, my heart trembles.

Friends, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb 3:7). Are there sins that the Spirit is prompting you to turn away from?

Do you see friends who are drifting away from Christ? Text them, call them, and meet them today, “so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” (Heb 3:13).

Too much is at stake. Moses was leading the Israelites only to the Promised Land. But our greater Moses, Jesus, is leading us into the eternal shalom of the New Creation!

### **Reflection**

1. What are the sins that the Holy Spirit is convicting you to repent of?
2. Who around you are sliding away from Christ? What can you do to encourage them in their faith?
3. What aspects of the New Creation are you looking forward to the most? How does that help you to persevere?

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