

Being Diligent To Enter (Numbers 14)

Introduction: *Losing or Using our Opportunities*

“That’s about all we do in this world – lose or use our opportunity” (W. J. Bryan).

1. The Failure of Faith (v. 1-5): *“So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief” (Heb 3:19).*

The people cry, “If only we had died in this wilderness!” (Num 14:2).

They justify their decision by the high-minded reason of protecting their families (v. 4), a good excuse for doing what *they* want to do.

They reject the word of God, the goodness of God, and the power of God.

2. The Intercession of Moses—For God’s Glory! (v. 13-19): *“Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant” (Heb 3:5).*

The “reasons” Moses gives in his intercessory prayer are God’s word, God’s power, God’s glory, and God’s love.

3. The Punishment which fits the Crime (v. 20-38): *“So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest’” (Heb 4:3)*

Just as they wished, four times in vv. 29-35 we read that their bodies will fall in the desert. “For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal 6:7).

4. The “Iron Cage” of Unrepentance (v. 39-45): *“You know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.” (Heb 12:17)*

“I am now a man of despair, and am shut up in it, as in this iron cage. I cannot get out; oh now I cannot!” (*Pilgrim’s Progress*, J. Bunyan).

NT Application (Heb 3:6-4:11): *“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (Heb 4:11).*

Proverbs 29:1, “He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

That’s why the scripture says in Hebrews 3:13, “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” Do not neglect the prescribed method of keeping your heart soft and the hearts of your brothers and sisters soft.

Conclusion: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Do not delay another day. “*Today*, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”