

## Introduction

- Have you ever been in the situation where you didn't trust those in charge?
  - at work - are they taking the company or organisation in right direction?
  - local club or even church?
  - maybe its just when your husband is driving!
  - holiday - tour leader! (Derek in Motherwell....!)
  - whatever...
- Likely to feel insecure, worried about what might happen, perhaps even angry that at some level you can't change things
  - you can see the danger coming, but can't do anything about it!
- Its a question of trust:
  - with the right leader, one we trust, we feel able to do just about anything!
- Such a person motivates the rest of "the troops"
  - but supremely can be trusted to do their bit...
  - to win the crucial contract, to choose the right path, to make the right decision.
- Its the leadership question that the writer moves onto in chapters 3 & 4 - we read chapter 3 earlier on:
  - who are you following?
  - can they take you where you need to go?
  - can you trust them?
  - what are their credentials?
- He is concerned to demonstrate that Jesus is the only one worth following:
  - not just to convince people to follow Jesus
  - but to encourage them to stay loyal, realising Jesus is the only one who can get them to their destination
- Two aspects of Jesus' leadership dealt with:
  - his faithfulness in taking on the task;
  - his ability to complete/finish the task of bringing God's people to their rest

## Jesus leads Faithfully

- To understand argument of Hebrews, worth remembering OT background he alludes to:

### Moses and Joshua as leaders

- Hebrews in captivity in Egypt; Moses brought up as a prince of Egyptians; identifies with his people; murders Egyptian; flees.
  - God calls him in desert; appoints him as leader to go and rescue his people; heads back to Egypt; bit of hassle with Pharaoh; miracles; head out via dried up Red Sea into desert.
- Moses God's appointed leader.
  - though free, people complain, grumble, object; various challenges to Moses leadership; in particular, complaints against Moses and God at Kadesh (Meribah) when there was no water
- Moses struck rock (when God has said speak to rock)
  - that general spirit of unfaithfulness led to God keeping the people in the desert for 40 years, until the first generation had died off
- Eventually people enter land, but only once Moses dead
  - now under Joshua's leadership; task is to complete the conquest of the land
  - starts well with Jericho; disobedience leads to defeat at Ai; conquest stretches out over years; never really completed...
  - compromises were made, and into David's time Jerusalem was the city of the Jebusites (maybe 200 years later)
- Moses and Joshua were national heroes to the Jews:
  - those they looked back to as their exemplary leaders (along with David and one

## Hebrews 3:1-14 Follow, follow, we will follow...? Fintry, 5/9/2004, pm

- or two others)
- you can almost hear the chants of "Moses! Moses! Moses!"...!

### Jesus leads Faithfully

- Author compares Jesus with Moses and Joshua in different ways. (*Joshua not mentioned until 4:8...*)
- Both led faithfully - but not perfectly!
  - Moses - Meribah - managed to not uphold God's holiness in some way (Numbers 20:1-13)
    - *But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."* (Num 20:12)
  - Moses became angry and frustrated by the people's recalcitrance; fed up with God for forcing them on him! - he struck the rock twice (in anger?), not spoke to it; he said, "must we bring you water...."
  - similarly, Joshua - he made treaty with men of Gibeon when God had said take over the land completely - conquer, not compromise.

### Contrast:

- Jesus was faithful - even unto death - "who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin" (Heb 4:15)
- Absolutely trustworthy in his leadership - we can rely on him, both in past and in future:
  - in past, wrt winning us salvation and showing us by example way to live;
  - in future, taking us home to his rest, and guidance here meantime.

### Jesus leads to Rest

- Promised Land - place of their own - freedom from oppression and enemies - writer here calls it "rest".
  - Moses - his job was to lead to promised land - never got there
  - Joshua - his job was to conquer the whole land - never did it
- They never completed their task. They never gave rest to the people.
- But Jesus does give rest; he has completed the task
- Sabbath rest - same rest that God entered into on finishing the creation.
- Not mere inactivity - but the rest of satisfaction, of completion:
  - the rest of feet up in front of the fire after a day hill-walking (or shopping!)
  - the (rare for me!) rest of having done the hard and objectionable tasks first, and only having the ones you enjoy still to tackle!
- Ultimately the "rest" of heaven.

### Conclusion

- "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion during the time of testing in the desert"
- Follow Jesus - in light of his capability as a leader:
  - "See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first" (3:12-14)
- Examine your heart - who are you following?
- Encourage one another - when was last time you encouraged a fellow believer to keep at it?