

Yes, and....

Revive

Hebrews 10:19-25

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10: 24-26***

REFLECTION

We have all experienced the challenges of making changes in our life, whether small or significant. The writer of Hebrews reminds us in v. 19-20 that it is not fear and rules (the law) which inspire us to change, but rather grace: *Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh). **When have you set a goal or tried to change and failed? When we realize we don't have to change in order to be worthy of God's love and acceptance, how can this transform our motivations?***

Eugene Peterson's *The Message* translates Hebrews 10:19-25 this way: *So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching. We are free to be "inventive" when we are willing to take a risk and say "yes." **How does this passage speak to you? Think about the people who have said "yes" to you, not necessarily because they agreed with you, but in love and support of you. What or whom might God be calling you to say "yes" to?***

Failure is a natural feature of saying yes. Phoenix Suns' coach Monty Williams is known for his mantras and how they resonate with his players: *"I want to continue to climb up the mountain of life and try to get everything that God has for me. I'm a man who has failed in many areas, but the one thing I don't want to do is quit."* **How can failure end up being a gift which we would never have experienced if not for saying "yes" in the first place? Why can we only receive the transformational power of grace through being in community, rather than through our own devices?**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your transformational grace. Empower us to say "yes" more often, and to seek your grace through community. May we truly sense our ability to change through the power of your grace. Amen