

**Voices of Warning, Voices of Encouragement**  
*Hebrews 10:26-39*

We need each other. This truth was made clear in the passage that we looked at a week ago. In Hebrews 10:19-25 the author urged us to consider how we can spur one another on to live lives of love and good deeds. Part of spurring each other on is speaking into each other's lives. Our passage this week suggests that we need to speak at times with a voice of warning and at other times with a voice of encouragement. This pattern of warning and encouragement has been seen earlier in Hebrews 6 (warning in vv. 4-8 and encouragement in vv. 9- 12). We all have this need for voices of warning and encouragement. It's a normal part of walking with Jesus. It is part of why we need each other.

**Read Hebrews 10:26-39**

1. What is the warning in verses 26-31?
2. Why is rejecting Christ more serious than rejecting the old covenant (vv. 28-29)?
3. What does the author spell out as the consequences of rejecting Jesus (vv. 26-31)?

Steve said:

It's a terrifying thing to fall under God's judgment. He points this out in order to reinforce that because of Jesus' sacrifice they didn't HAVE to be God's enemies. Remember that the author warns against this final condition so that they would avoid the progression that leads to apostasy. The Hebrews were supposed to think, "Because I don't want to be God's adversary and experience the terror of His judgment, I need to avoid the deceitfulness of sin and the resulting hardening." Just like the Hebrews, each of us here today needs people who will speak the truth in love and warn us of the deceitfulness of sin and the dangers of becoming hardened to the point of unbelief. We can and should receive warning directly from the Scriptures as we read it and think about it and hear it taught. But we also need people who will be this voice of warning in our lives.

4. Is there anyone who knows the specific sins with which you struggle and who has permission to talk to you about them? In other words, do you have people who are a voice of warning in your life?

5. If you do have a person in your life who serves as this voice of warning, how did you get to the point where you have that kind of relationship?
  
6. The author didn't just warn the Hebrews, he also encourages them. Specifically, he encourages them by reminding them of things he had seen in their lives. What had he seen in how they handled opposition in the early days (vv. 32-34)?
  
7. How did their response to their suffering in the early days point to the genuineness of their faith?
  
8. How might verse 39 have been a source of strong encouragement to the Hebrews?
  
9. In the same way that the author encourages the Hebrews with his words, some of us have had people do the same thing in our lives. How has the voice of encouragement been a helpful thing for you in your walk with Jesus in the past?

Steve said:

In the body of Christ nobody should have to carry their secrets behind "forced smiles." The church should be a safe place where people can come out into the light and help each other deal with the issues in our lives. This involves being people who both give and receive words of warning and words of encouragement.

10. What kinds of things help you "come out into the light" with another person such that you feel safe to share the deeper stuff of your life?
  
11. What do you sense is the main thing that the Lord is saying to you through this study?