

1—A Day Called Today

12/31/23

INTRO:

I. → Psalms 95:7-11

Today, if you would hear his voice:

*“Do not harden your **hearts** as you did at Meribah, in the day of **Massah** in the wilderness, where your ancestors **tested** me; they tried me, though they saw my works.*

*→ 10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation; I said, ‘The people go astray **in their hearts**, and they do not **know** my ways.’ So I swore in my wrath: ‘They will never enter my rest.’”*

II. Exodus 17:2-3

*Moses replied, “Why do you **quarrel** with me? Why do you put the Lord to the **test**?” 3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they **grumbled** against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”*

III. Exodus 17:7

*And he called the place **Massah** and **Meribah** because the Israelites **quarreled** and because they **tested** the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”*

- IV. Being restful hard at work
Being restless on vacation

BODY:

I. Contending With People

Heb (*riyb*) contend, complain, strive

A. Some people are not happy if there is no controversy.

- 1) Grk (*parapikrasmos*) irritation, provocation, bitterness

2) **1 Timothy 6:4-5**

*They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and **constant friction** between people of corrupt mind.*

3) REFEREES GETTING INTO A FIGHT

B. It is a daily pursuit to keep our hearts from getting hard.

1) **Hebrews 3:13**

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

2) FINDING THE TAPE OF 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

II. Testing the Lord

Heb (*nacah*) test, prove

A. Some people have to learn everything the hard way.

1) Grk (*peirasmós*) temptation, putting to test

2) JESUS ANSWERING THE DEVIL

3) **Deuteronomy 6:16-17**

*Do not put the Lord your God to the **test** as you did at Massah. Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you.*

4) ZULU DAWN COUNTING THE GUNS

B. It is never too late to start doing things the Lord's way.

1) **Hebrews 4:11**

*Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that **rest**, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.*

2) SISTER DRIVING THE PINTO UP THE TRUCK RAMP

III. Hearing His Voice

Heb (*luwn*) murmur, stop, refuse, grudge

A. God will speak to us, be we have to be willing to hear.

1) **Hebrews 13:1-2**

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (RSV)

2) **CASEY'S ROADSIDE AWARD**

B. Every day is an opportunity to enter into His rest.

1) **Hebrews 4:6-7**

Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, God again set a certain day, calling it "Today."

2) **JIMMY VALVANO—NEVER GIVE UP**

Died less than 2 months later, 1993

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Hebrews 3:18-19

And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

Hebrews 4:9-10

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest.