

3/7/21

Sermon Description:

“Don’t bury the lede.” In journalism, the *lede* refers to the introductory section of a news story that is intended to entice the reader to read the full story. In Scripture, Christ is both the lede and the full story. This week Jesus is seen as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure, which is good news amidst the turbulent times we live.

Main Passage:

Heb. 6:9-20

Title:

Don’t bury the lede!

Topics:

Church>Discipleship

Tags:

salvation, promise, oath, Jesus, priest

INTRODUCTION - In journalism, the *lede* refers to the introductory section of a news story that is intended to entice the reader to read the full story. It appears most frequently in the idiom *bury the lede*.

QUOTE: We're not going to *bury the lede* here: **Bob Ross' hair was actually straight.** Just ask his longtime business partner, Annette Kowalski, who knew Ross better than anyone — he had just gotten out of the Air Force, and was unsuccessfully trying to make a living as a painter, she says. "He got this bright idea that he could save money on haircuts. So he let his hair grow, he got a perm, and decided he would never need a haircut again," Kowalski explains.

—Danny Hajek, NPR.org, 29 Aug. 2016

Today: Avoid burying the lede. Make sure Christ remains both lede and the main feature.

Hebrews series

Quick recap – He has spoken through the Son!

Last week: Warnings!! But they are not intended to be the end. They are to lead you away from something and toward something else.

Don’t bury the lede.

READ TEXT

Hebrews 6:9–20 – AN OUTLINE FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT!

1. Better things. Salvation things. (6:9)
2. God is not unjust. (6:10-12)
3. God said it. So, it's done. (6:13-18)
4. Jesus has entered behind the curtain. (6:19-20)

Heb. 6:9 – Better things. Salvation things.

Others:

- It is a dominant theme in this book - 46 uses scattered throughout NT. 16 of 28 books.
- Use of soteria in Heb. - Heb. 1:14, 2:3, 2:10, 5:9, 6:9, 9:28, 11:7
- I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for salvation. Rom. 1:16
- Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. Rev. 7:10, 12:10, 19:1
- **Acts 4:12¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to us by which we must be saved."**

This to say, salvation belongs to God. Salvation comes from God to us. He is the giver and we are the recipient.

Don't bury the lede.

This means YOU are NOT causal in your salvation. It does NOT originate with you, within you, on account of your intelligence, your goodness. It's NOT on account of your education, your level of holiness. That

Don't bury the lede. What does that look like, sound like, in regard to salvation?

Example #1 – Salvation becomes about A LOT of things other than the MAIN thing. It becomes about church and friendship and daily bible reading and activities and service and belonging and memorizing Scripture and on and on.

JEN WILKIN QUOTE

Example #2 – Salvation of a loved one - believing you are *primary* in their salvation. Despite what it says that "Salvation belongs to the LORD", you see yourself as principal, as causal, in your loved one's salvation. Can God use you? Yes. Must he? No. (THIS IS A TOUGH TEACHING. MOST OF US DO NOT LIKE OPERATING FROM A PLACE OF DEPENDENCE!)

Hebrews 6:10-12 // God is NOT unjust.

You can almost here the audience, “If God were really just, we wouldn’t be experiencing this suffering? What about us? What about our work and our love? What about our helping of others? “I did this. We did this.”

MICHAEL SCOTT QUOTE

We’re all tempted to think like that! Or like the Hebrews! We’re tempted to believe that we are the lede. We are worthy of attention. We are worth people seeing our work and our love.

The author says...Yes...BUT elsewhere Scripture makes clear that we are dust (Ps. 103:14). We are jars of clay, common ordinary tupperware (2 Cor. 4:7).

When discussing God’s justice—does this come to mind?

1 Peter 3:18 ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Do you want your work, your love, to stand on its own?? REALLY!??

For the Christian, we join ourselves to Christ. What is paramount, what is the lede and the main story is HIS WORK, not ours. WHEN IT COMES TO OUR WORK, it should be rightly seen as smaller reflections of his greater work. For example, in showing hospitality or service, that work does not stand on its own. It’s an expression (I hope) of Christ’s love. The smaller pointing to the greater. Dust/Tupperware pointing to the Creator/Treasure.

Example #1: When your sense of justice does not square with what is actually happening. That should happen almost every day.

Example #2: When your sense of justice does not square with what is actually happening and THEREFORE GOD MUST NOT be just. Now, we have a problem.

IF GOD WERE JUST, it would mean this and this and this.

IF GOD TRULY SAW ME (like the passage seems to indicate), why am I suffering? Why am I experiencing pain? Why is that person or group suffering? Why are they experiencing pain?

Don’t mistake his patience for injustice. Earthly, physical justice is not one-to-one match with the justice of God. It is NOT what you see is what you get in regard to justice. RATHER GOD PROMISES justice will be served. Don’t mistake the lede. The lede is not earthly justice (which so often sees in part). The lede is the cross, God’s ultimate justice (which knows FULLY).

IF GOD WERE JUST...then THIS would happen within the Chauvin trial. Racial relations. Capitalist economics. Immigration and international boarder concerns. Vaccination and pandemic realities. IF GOD WERE JUST...THIS would happen.

Heb. 6:13-18 – God said it. So it's done.

What's the story here? Oaths/promises/unchanging nature/can't lie

See: Gen. 22:15-18 - ¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "**I swear by myself**, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

What's the back story? What did God tell Abraham? I will make you a great nation. I will give you many descendants. God fulfilled this. Even though Abraham waited and waited and waited. How difficult would it have been? To wait for years??

There is often a delay between God's promise and its fulfillment.

- 20 years between Joseph's dreams and the time his brothers and father bowed before him in Egypt ([Genesis 37:2](#); [41:46](#), [53](#)).
- David was a teenager when Samuel anointed him the next king of Israel, but "David was thirty years old when he began to reign" ([2 Samuel 5:4](#)).
- There were more than four hundred years between God's promise of a Messiah and Jesus' birth.
- Even the disciples had to wait about nine days between Jesus' ascension and the outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit ([Acts 1:3](#); [2:1](#)).

So Abraham becomes for us an example of waiting and trusting and believing and hoping in God's promises, that they will come to pass. As surely as God speaks, he speaks truth, he cannot lie, he swore on oath, it WILL happen.

What does burying the lede look like in regard to God's Word?

Example #1: Abraham *himself*. Before this account in Gen. 22, we have chapter 17. The story of Hagar and Ishmael.

It was the same with Adam and Eve.

It's the same with us. Burying the lede is not trusting God to fulfill his promises. I'm not going to wait.

Example #2: Living as though his promises are not true in regard to grace and forgiveness. You refuse to forgive yourself. You refuse to see yourself as forgiven, accepted, clean. You refuse to believe that it really could be that good, that your sins could be separated from you as far as the East is from the West. He said. His promises are sure. Lay down your refusal. Accept his goodness. Accept his forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:19-20

Jesus is the forerunner. He entered “BEHIND THE CURTAIN”.

What does this mean? What is the context? The High Priest, and only the High Priest, one time each year, and only one time, entered the Holy of Holies to make a sacrifice on behalf of the people.

Example: What if I’m not feeling it? What if I’m feeling lazy?


- Burying the lede is to say that your feelings are what is actually of utmost importance, not Christ. What is most important is not his work in the world but how you are feeling today.
- Burying the lede says, “I’m not feeling all that spiritual” is more important, holds greater consequences than Jesus Christ suffering once for sins the righteous for the unrighteous to bring us to God.
- When you don’t desire God, when you’re not feeling it, when you’re overwhelmed with anxiety or depression or apathy, IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT YOU RECALL YOUR STANDING. FOR THE CHRISTIAN YOU STAND “BEHIND THE CURTAIN”
- The high priest once per year on the day of the atonement. THAT WHICH WAS PRIVILEGED SPACE FOR ONE PRIEST ONE DAY OF THE YEAR...HAS ON ACCOUNT OF JESUS BECOME OUR FAMILY ROOM!!!!
- This is for us an anchor, our hope!!!

Don’t bury the lede. Surround yourselves with people who will not permit you to be the central figure of the story.

In journalism, the *lede* refers to the introductory section of a news story that is intended to entice the reader to read the full story. It appears most frequently in the idiom *bury the lede*.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/bury-the-lede-versus-lead>



A black and white photograph of a mountain range viewed through a cave opening. The text "JESUS IS GREATER" is overlaid in the center. The scene is framed by the dark, jagged rock of the cave entrance. The mountains in the background are rugged and jagged, with some snow or light-colored patches. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The foreground shows a rocky path leading into the distance.

JESUS IS GREATER

BOOK OF HEBREWS

Hebrews 6:9–20

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case — the things that have to do with salvation.

Hebrews 6:9–20

¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Hebrews 6:9–20

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. ¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

Hebrews 6:9–20

¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.


Hebrews 6:9-20

1. Better things. Salvation things. (6:9)
2. God is not unjust. (6:10-12)
3. God said it. So, it's done. (6:13-18)
4. Jesus has entered behind the curtain.
(6:19-20)

Don't bury the lede – Better things. Salvation things.

Hebrews 6:9

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case – the things that have to do with salvation.

A crown of thorns is centered on a dark, textured wooden background. Behind the crown is a circular graphic with a red, wavy, liquid-like texture. The text is overlaid on this red circle.

Salvation is found in no one
else, for there is no other
name under heaven given to
us by which we must be
saved.



ACTS 4:12
NIV

Let's shift the focus from 'you are a daughter
(or son) of the King' to 'behold your King'

~ Jen Wilkin, tweet in advance of *Women, Trade Self-Worth for Awe
and Wonder*, desiringgod.org, 7/14/16



What does burying the lede look like in regard to salvation?

Don't bury the lede – God is just!

Hebrews 6:10–12

¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.



**Do I need to be liked? Absolutely not.
I like to be liked. I enjoy being liked.**

**I have to be liked, but it's not like this compulsive
need to be liked, like my need to be praised.**

Don't bury the lede – God is just!

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the
unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Don't bury the lede – God is just!

Hebrews 6:10–12

¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

What does burying the lede look like in regard to God's justice?

Hebrews 6:13–18 // God said it. So, its' done!

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. ¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.


What does burying the lede look like in regard to God's word?

Don't bury the lede – Jesus has entered behind the curtain!

Hebrews 6:19-20

¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

What does burying the lede look like in regard to Jesus being our forerunner?

A black and white photograph of a mountain range viewed through a cave opening. The text "JESUS IS GREATER" is overlaid in the center. The scene is framed by the dark, jagged rock of the cave entrance. The mountains in the background are rugged and jagged, with some snow or light-colored patches. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The foreground shows a rocky path leading into the distance.

JESUS IS GREATER

BOOK OF HEBREWS