

HEBREWS 3:1-6

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MOSES IS GREAT, JESUS IS GREATER



Hebrews 3:1-6

Today we continue to “consider Jesus” So far, Jesus is greater than the angels, Jesus is God, Jesus’ Salvation is deep and wide.

Let’s begin with **v.1**.

Hebrews 3:1 (NIV)¹ *Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.*

We Need Two Things - a Word and a Way

All Human beings need two things: We need a **word from God** and we need a **way to God**. We need to **hear** from God so that we know what he is like and what his purposes are for the world and what he requires of us. And we need a **way** to God because to be cut off from God in death would be darkness and misery and torment forever. So we have these two great needs: a Word from God and a Way to God; to hear from God and to go to God. We need revelation from him and reconciliation with him.

Did you note how we begin today... *Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling*

This "heavenly calling" relates to the two great needs that we have: a *word* from God and a *way to God*. It's a *heavenly* calling, which means it is *from heaven*, a word from God. And it's a *calling*, which means it is meant to “call us” or show us the way home to God. It’s not just God saying, “Hey guys, how’s it going?” No, the word of God has broken through our resistance, and took hold of us with the truth and love of Christ, and reconciled us to God and is now leading us home to heaven. This means that Christians are people of great hope. God has spoken from heaven, and made a way to heaven, and we have believed and our hope and confidence are firm.

This room is filled with all kind of people. *There are sinners of every kind in this room this morning—* lying sinners, stealing sinners, sexual sinners, killing sinners, parent-disobeying sinners, selfish sinners. And that is all there are here – *sinners*.

It’s good to know that the hope of a heavenly calling does not hang on our righteousness, isn’t it? If it did, we would be hopeless. Our hope and

confidence hang on Jesus. This is why **verse 1** continues: *Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on (consider) Jesus*. This is what we are doing this morning. This is what preaching is about. It is what Sunday School is about. It is what small groups are about. *Fixing our thoughts on Jesus*.

We often think that considering Jesus is something that unbelievers should do. Don't believers, Christians, automatically consider Jesus? The answer is obviously, “No.” Remember the warning back in **Hebrews 2:1**, *"We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."* The danger is constantly in our way that we will stop considering Jesus and become more interested in other things and drift away from the Word and perhaps never return and *prove that we were never truly partakers of the heavenly calling*. So Hebrews calls us (Christians!) again and again to "Consider Jesus." (and we shall do that again today)

Jesus Is the Word from God and the Way to God

The reason is because Jesus is the only answer to the two great needs that we have. We need a word from God and way to God. We need revelation from God and we need reconciliation with God. And the point of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus is both. This is why **verse 1** ends with two descriptions of Jesus: *Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess*.

These two descriptions of Jesus correspond to our two great needs. Apostle means "one who is sent." So Jesus is the one sent from God to earth with the revelation of his heavenly calling. He is the Word from God (1:2)

"High priest" is one who is a go-between, who offers sacrifices so that there can be reconciliation. So Jesus is our high priest as we saw last week: **Hebrews 2:17** *"He [Jesus] had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."* That great phrase "make propitiation" means "make a sacrifice for our sins that brings God's anger

at us to an end" and makes us friends.

So what the writer is saying is: You Christians, you who share in the calling of God - consider Jesus, think about Jesus, meditate on Jesus, listen to Jesus. Why? Because he is the Apostle from heaven who brought you your calling. And he is the final, once for all High Priest of God whose sacrifice of himself reconciled you to God and guarantees your homecoming to heaven.

Consider Jesus

This whole book of Hebrews is written to help us consider Jesus. There is more to consider about Jesus than you could ever exhaust in this life. In fact the point of the entire book is: *Consider this Jesus!* Ponder him. Fix your eyes on him..

So we ask the writer of this book, and the God who inspired it, what do you want us to consider about Jesus today from Hebrews 3:1-6? And the answer is: "Consider his superiority over Moses." Think about this. Ponder this. Focus on this. Why? Because in considering this, your confidence in your heavenly calling will be made stronger and your hope will be more bold.

I. HOW THE JEWS IN THE 1ST CENTURY VIEWED MOSES:

We think, "Well of course Jesus Christ is greater than Moses. He's greater than angels so how could he not be greater than Moses?"

But you have to put yourself in the shoes of these 1st century Jewish Christians for awhile. For them, that was not the case. They spent their entire lives looking back to Moses and in every way wanting, if perhaps somehow possible, to emulate Him, but could not. He was the great father figure of their religion. "Is Jesus better than him?"

How would they have thought of Moses? We will not truly understand the emphasis on Moses in the Book of Hebrew unless we understand the special place Moses had in the mind and hearts of Jews.

And if they were to remain faithful as Christians, they needed to see that Jesus is far better than Moses, than anyone.

There were so many aspects of Moses that made him, for every Jew the most important person who ever lived.....

- **Divinely Chosen** – to deliver the Jews from

Egypt. Called by God

- **Incomparable Deliverer** – of his people. A military giant.
- **A Great Priest and Intercessor** for his people.
- **The Lawgiver**. "The Law of Moses"
- Israel's **Greatest Historian**. First Five books of the Bible.
- **More Humble than Anyone Else**
- **Faithful**
- Israel's **Greatest Prophet**

Numbers 12:6-8 (NIV)⁶ *he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. ⁷ But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. ⁸ With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord.*

SO, to the Israelites of the 1st Century...

Politically, he was their George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill. Militarily, he was their Napoleon Bonaparte, Genghis Khan, Their Douglas MacArthur, their Norman Schwartzkoff.

He was their... John Wayne, Indiana Jones, Clint Eastwood, Jackie Chan, Charlie Chan, James Bond, Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Matt Dillon, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans,

He was their... Superman, Batman, Bat Woman, Wonder Woman, Spiderman, Iron Man, Optimus Prime, Mighty Mouse, Cat Woman, Zina The Princess Warrior, The Incredible Hulk, Captian America.

He was their... Gandhi, Billy Graham, Mother Teresa,

IF THEY HAD POSTERS... they would have posters of:

- Moses in the basket in the Nile,
- Moses Prince of Egypt,
- Moses at the burning bush
- Moses writing the first 5 Book of the Bible
- Moses bring down the 10 Commandments
- Moses raising his hands up to part the Red Sea
- Moses Interceding for his people when they sinned.

MOSES WAS THEIR ROCK STAR! The Israeli Idol of all time.

II. CONSIDER HIS SUPERIORITY OVER MOSES

So it's not surprising that Israel had a high view of Moses. And they should. Which is the point of

Hebrews 3:2 (NIV)² *He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.*

So, when the writer turns now to contrast Jesus and Moses, it really means something because Moses was one of a kind in his day—with a more intimate relation to God than any other prophet.

There are two ways that Jesus is superior to Moses mentioned in **verses 3–6** and what strengthens our confidence and our hope is not just the raw fact of Jesus' superiority over Moses; it's what we see about Jesus that makes him superior.

1. The Builder is Greater than the Building

So consider Jesus now; consider his superiority over Moses. First in **verse 3**,

Verse 3 says that Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses in relation to God's house. And he gives an astonishing reason. Because Jesus is the builder of the house and Moses is a part of the house.

Look at it carefully. Verse 3 *Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, In what way? just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.*

When you look at a great building, what do you think about? When we were in Paris, one of the things we did was to go see some of the great architecture. This is Notre Dame Cathedral. When you see something so magnificent, you don't say, "God job Notre Dame Cathedral. Well done, you made yourself wonderful!" No, you say, "Who built that? Who was the architect? Those craftsmen were amazing!"

In other words he is saying: Jesus is to the people of God as a builder is to a house. Moses is part of the household. Therefore Jesus is *Moses' builder*. In short, Jesus made Moses.

Now let this sink in. "Consider" this! This is your Apostle and High Priest. He is the one who brought you a heavenly calling from God and made you a way to God. On him hangs all your hope of heaven. If you have any confidence this morning that your sins are forgiven and that you will attain your heavenly calling, this confidence depends on Jesus. The greater and more glorious he is, the greater our hope and confidence.

Jesus Made Moses

Verse 4 makes explicit just how great he is: **Hebrews 3:4** (NIV)⁴ *For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.* Verse 3 says that Jesus made the house. Verse 4 says that the maker of all things is God. Conclusion?

Syllogism – vs. 3 – Jesus made the house.

v.4 The maker of the house is God.

THEREFORE??? Jesus is God!

The same as chapter 1: Jesus, the Son of God, IS GOD. That's how great he is.

The word of our Apostle is a sure word because it is a word carried by God himself. The atoning work of our High Priest on the cross is a finished and all-sufficient work, because it has infinite value as the work of God himself. Consider this about Jesus: he made Moses. And he made you.

2. Jesus Is the Son; Moses a Servant

One other superiority of Jesus over Moses is mentioned in verses 5–6a: **Hebrews 3:5–6a** (NIV)⁵ *"Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house..."*

The difference between a servant and a son is that the son, by inheritance, owns the house, and is lord over the house, and provides for those in the house out of his wealth. But the servants don't own anything in the house, and the servants follow the word of the owner. The servants receive their provision from the owner.

So again, Jesus, as a Son, is superior to Moses: he owns the house of God; he rules the house of God; and he provides for the house of God. By comparison Moses is just a servant in the house (a great and faithful servant to be sure, but a servant never-the-less). He doesn't own it; he doesn't rule it; and he doesn't provide for it from his wealth.

So consider Jesus in relation to Moses.

III. HE ENDS WITH US - v. 6B

John Piper says, "He ends this section the way I as a preacher would want him to end this section."

Notice that here at the end of verse 6 that the writer takes all this glorious truth that he has said about Jesus as "the maker of Moses" "the owner of Moses" "the Lord of Moses" and the "provider of Moses" and he applies it to US. In the last half of v.6, he turns his attention totally away from the people of

Israel and Moses and totally away from the Apostolic age, and now he says in **verse 6** *“And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.”*

(He’s addressing a 3rd generation church here.)

You and I are the house of God this morning, If you are holding fast to your confidence in God and to your hope in God. And if you are the “house of God” then God today in Christ is your Maker, your Owner, your Ruler, and your Provider. He will watch over his house. He will provide for his house.

if we hold on to our courage. What we are looking at here is “the evidence” that we are part of the house of God.

How can you KNOW if you are a partaker of the heavenly calling this morning? Answer not “I walked the aisle once” , or “I prayed a prayer.”

Not the answer. To know that you are a part of the house of God, which He loves, and protects, and watches over, YOU ASK A QUESTION RIGHT NOW ABOUT YOUR HOPE. Your confidence.

Do you hope this morning, in money? Do you hope in getting a good job and advancing? Do you hope in luck? In the stock market? In your 401k?

If so, change.

“Becoming” a Christian and “being” a Christian happen exactly the same way.... By hoping in Jesus.

Do you have your confidence in Jesus. That makes you a Christian, that is the evidence that you are a Christian.

Do you exalt and boast that Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of your confession? Or do you constantly try to prop yourself up with human means of hope and security? If your hope in Jesus, you are **being** a Christian.

If you are here this morning more because it’s Mothers Day than because Jesus is your Maker, your Owner, your Ruler, and your Provider, then change! Consider Jesus.

"Consider Jesus." Fix your eyes on Jesus. And hope in him. Then you will be part of his house and he will be yours.