

Better

A Study of Hebrews • Lesson 3

Hebrews 3:1-4:13 - “Better Than Moses”

As we continue work through the book of Hebrews we will see the author showing how Jesus Christ, being God, is supreme and He is better than people or things that the original audience would have held very dear or even sacred. In this next chapter, he will address how Jesus is better than Moses. He continues the pattern: Jesus is better than followed by a warning - Therefore:

Hebrews 3:1-6 Therefore:

Themes: Holiness of God, brotherhood (using familial language), our heavenly calling: we lift our eyes to something bigger than the current persecution. Don't go back. You all share a heavenly calling.

Your calling is to fix your eyes on Jesus Christ. Consider concentrated attention because Jesus is profound and significant. To “consider” here means that you should focus all your energy on the obvious merits of Jesus over everything.

Your *confession* is that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He is Lord with a dual nature. He is an apostle, meaning an authoritative spokesperson, and mediator - reference to being our high priest.

Jesus and Moses had similarities (both being faithful) but also are different in significant ways. Jesus has more glory than Moses. To say this would have been shocking to the Jewish Christians. Moses was much loved. Among other things:

- He was the Law giver and judge
- His face was radiant when he came down from Mt. Sinai
- He delivered them from captivity
- He wrote the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible)

So, to tell this audience that Jesus has more glory than Moses would have sounded shocking.

While Moses was faithful as a servant, Jesus Christ was faithful over God's house as a Son. Moses was just a shadow of the true Christ.

We are His House if we hold fast to our confidence—another nautical reference: stay the course to your destination. The fruit of the believer is perseverance in true faith. This is the indicator that you are a true believer. We hope with confidence and expectation

The early Christians put Moses on a pedestal. Who have you put onto a pedestal? Guard against this impulse—they are only human

Hebrews 3:7-11 Therefore - Don't harden your hearts.

Author quotes Psalm 95:7-11

Israel rebelled and so they wandered in the desert before getting to the promised land. The promised land represents rest. The rest that is referred to here doesn't mean "take a nap and do nothing." Work remains in rest. Rest is defined as *security from disruption, and freedom from enemy attack on land that is inherited*. This is from John Hamlin in his commentary on Joshua.

So, it is freedom from adversarial attack so that you can go about kingdom building work. *We can't fully advance as long as we battle sin. Our enemies are primarily spiritual.*

Warning #2 - Hebrews 3:12-15 - do not harden your hearts - repeats "today" in other words don't wait to repent. Repent and believe—keep trying to enter that rest. The antidote to falling away is to exhort one another every day. New morning mercies means we keep on repenting and believing as we strive to enter into that rest.

To exhort = to strongly urge or influence one another by one of 2 methods:

1. To cheer along with a good word of encouragement
2. To exhort by perhaps telling someone to "stop that" or otherwise call them to account. Sometimes a hard word is needed.

Hebrews 3:16-19 The progression of sin as seen in the Israelites in the wilderness:

1. Unbelief
2. Disobedience
3. Consequence given by God

God is jealous for His holiness and His Name

It all starts with unbelief and it can creep in. Mark 9:23-25 - "Lord I believe, help my unbelief!" Ask God to remove this from you. Articulate it. Don't let your heart grow hard. Ask others to pray and to exhort you.

Even Moses failed to enter into rest (the Promised Land) due to unbelief Numbers 20:9-12. (Moses struck the rock, going against God's command) He was a flawed leader. Only Jesus is perfect. He is better.

Chapter 4

Hebrews 4:1-10

Therefore: be very careful of Intellectual assent that doesn't touch your heart or change your life

Don't be like Israel, who received the good news in partial form back in the wilderness. It was sufficient for salvation. They, like Abraham and others had enough revelation – it was credited to Abraham as righteousness. However, others in the Old Testament times were not united by faith.

Rev 13:8

Our rest has been secured from the foundation of the world but we have to enter into it. David also spoke of this rest.

Hebrews 4:10

Mt 11:28-29 This is not a call to naptime. It is rather a soul rest—not by works. This rest is the promise of our salvation—the rest that will be ours when sin is no more. The rest that will come with holiness. Then we will labor in kingdom building

without sin. We will not fully enter into rest until we are free from sin altogether in heaven.

Hebrews 4:11 - Warning - strive to enter that rest - labor for it - make every effort toward holiness - a joyful labor.

Hebrews 4:11-13 - this is actually the high point of a rant about holiness

The Word of God will cut you right down to your motives and will leave you naked and exposed—you will give an account. But for the believer—imagine seeing a scroll of all our sins and knowing—Wow—there was grace for that - and there was grace for that

Nothing denies us rest more than sin— “No rest for the wicked”

Mt. 5:29-30 our only hope of wholeness is trust in the faithful hand of our surgeon. The Word of God is the dividing hand. We are surgically dissected by the Scriptures - not just affirmed and loved - but when it comes to unbelief and wandering we need the Word to say “Don’t do that!” Jesus is the only hope we have of holiness.

Come as You Are - Crowder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnZrRunTjjI>