

Jesus is Greater Than Moses

Hebrews 3:1-6

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 but Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”

INTRODUCTION:

- **Moses Highly Esteemed By the Jews**

CIT: Why Is Jesus Greater Than Moses?

I. He Is Greater Because of His Office—Apostle and Priest

(vs. 1)—*“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus”*

A. Don’t Forget Who You Are

1. Holy Brethren

- a. Paul’s address was to believers
- b. Not brethren in name only

2. Partakers of the Heavenly Calling

- a. Those connected to the heavenly Israel
- b. Those who have a heavenly Master—the Lord Jesus Christ
- c. Those who have a heavenly inheritance

B. Keep Your Heart On Christ—*“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus”*

1. Consider Jesus

- a. Consider—means to observe fully
 - i. We are not to just casually look upon Jesus
 - ii. We are to gaze intently upon Jesus
- b. What Does it Mean To look upon Jesus intently?
 - i. We are to take Jesus seriously

- ii.** We are to get our eyes off all the ceremony
- iii.** We need to realize that Jesus is all we will ever need

2. Don't Forget Jesus

a. When it gets difficult

- i.** Following Jesus is going to be very difficult
- ii.** It will mean living in opposition to the world, the flesh, and the devil
- iii.** It will mean turning your back upon wrong relationships, wrong habits, wrong lifestyles
- iv.** Jesus is greater than all our difficulties

b. When everyone stands against you

- i.** Your faith is going to make you many enemies
 - Enemies among friends
 - Enemies among family
 - Enemies to the Gospel
- ii.** Jesus is greater than all that oppose us

c. When things don't make sense

3. Learn From Jesus

a. Believers need to continually learn of Jesus

- i.** They learn of Jesus by continually walking with Him—and proving Him day by day
- ii.** They learn of Jesus by abiding in His word

- They constantly are digging deeper and deeper into the word of God
- They find greater truths of Who Christ Is

- iii.** They learn of Jesus by living a life of obedience to the truth

b. Jesus cannot be exhausted

- i.** A person who truly considers—observes fully—Jesus will find he can never plumb to depths of Christ
- ii.** He just uncovers more and more
- iii.** Jesus is the inexhaustible treasure that believers have entered into

C. Christ The Apostle—“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus”

1. What Is An Apostle

- a. *Apostolos*—One who is sent
- b. It can be used for an official ambassador

2. Moses the Apostle

- a. Moses was one who was sent by God

i. God orchestrated his salvation from death by giving him a mom who feared God over the Pharaoh

- He was hidden among the reeds in a basket where His mom and sister ministered to his needs
- Then one day he was discovered by the Pharaoh’s daughter
- Instead of killing the child—she took the child in as her own son
- Miriam—who was watching this whole thing play out—went to Pharaoh’s daughter and asked if she needed assistance from a Hebrew

nurse to take care of the child—Moses’ mother

- Pharaoh’s daughter took her up on the offer—giving Moses’ mom the opportunity to raise her son to be a prince in Egypt

ii. God worked in Moses’ heart

- The Bible indicates that He had become very powerful in Egypt’s leadership

Acts 7:22—“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.”

- But God began to stir upon His heart to remember His brethren
- So he went to visit his brethren who were under the strong hand of Pharaoh—slaves and bondmen
- And it was upon one of those visits that Moses witnessed the cruelty in which his brethren were being treated

Acts 7:24-25—“And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: 25 for he supposed his brethren would

have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them”

iii. Moses was forced to leave Egypt

- Because of Moses’ action in Egypt he was forced to leave
- Moses fled to the land of Midian where he met his wife Zipporah
- He dwelt as a shepherd there for 40 years
- It was there that God got a hold of his heart—at a burning bush

iv. God called Moses to take up the role of the deliverer of Israel

- God sent Moses back to Egypt with the supreme purpose of delivering the children of Israel out of their bondage
- God empowered Moses—by bringing various plagues upon the land until Pharaoh ultimately let the children of Israel go
- For the next 40 years—Moses led the children of

Israel through the wilderness

v. Moses was used of God to bring the Law and ceremonies to Israel

vi. Moses became the hero to many of the Jews

b. Moses was an apostle to the Jews

3. Jesus the Apostle—*“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus”*

a. Jesus was a greater Apostle

i. He was not only sent by God, but was sent FROM God

- Jesus came from the throne of Heaven and took upon Him the flesh of man
- And like Moses, He was sent to deliver the children of Israel from her bondage
 - Her bondage was not a foreign nation—like Egypt (or Rome)
 - It wasn’t some evil oppressor

- It was SIN—Jesus was sent to deliver Israel from her sin

ii. In order to deliver them from their sin—Jesus would have to die for their sin

- Jesus would become the sacrifice for their sin

NOTE: Moses never did that for the people of Israel. At best he only typified it by calling the children of Israel to smear the blood of a lamb upon their doorpost to save the firstborn from dying.

Jesus was the fulfillment of the Passover night. He was the lamb of God that was sent to take away not only the sins of Israel—but of the world

b. Jesus was a greater apostle than Moses

D. Christ The High Priest—“*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus*”

NOTE: This is where Moses and Jesus are really set apart. Moses was never a priest—let alone a high priest. Jesus was.

1. The Priesthood

a. It was made up of different levels

i. The Levites

- God set apart the tribe of Levi to be involved in the ministry of Israel—the priesthood
- All that were of Levi were some way connected to the priesthood
 - Some were involved in ministry through the sacrifices
 - Some were involved in leading worship
 - Some were involved in teaching the Word of God
 - Some were involved as doorkeepers
 - Some had special roles—that no others had a right to

ii. The High Priest

- Only those Levites who were of the seed of Aaron could be the high priest
- The high priest’s responsibility was to go into

the Holy of holies once a year and make atonement for the people of Israel

- To sacrifice their a lamb for their sins—and sprinkle his blood upon the mercy seat
- It was a very tedious process that the high priest went through in offering this sacrifice

2. Christ the High Priest

a. Christ was a greater High Priest—than any of the Aaronic priesthood

i. He did what could ever do—He removed sin once and for all

E. Get Your Eyes on Jesus—Not Moses

1. Moses was great
2. But Jesus is even greater
3. Put Your heart upon Him

II. He is Greater Because of His Work--Builder (vs. 2-4)—“*who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the*

house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.”

NOTE: Paul is very careful in how he presents Christ. He at first compares Christ to Moses. Then he exalts Christ over Moses.

A. The Faithfulness of Moses—“*who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.*”

1. Faithful to Carry Out God’s Plan

Numbers 12:7-8—“*My servant Moses ... is faithful in all mine house. 8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth*”

a. Moses’ life was characterized by obedience and faithfulness to God’s plan and purpose

- i. God used him to deliver the children of Israel
- ii. God used him to lead the children of Israel
- iii. God used him to minister to the children of Israel

b. Moses was faithful during hard times

i. He was faithful to confront the greatest leader in the world—Pharaoh

- ii. He was faithful to trust in God for Israel when they doubted
- iii. He was faithful to stand in the gap for them when they sinned
- iv. He was faithful to endure through their whining and complaining
- v. He was faithful when they wanted to kill him

2. Moses's Imperfection

- a. Moses also had faults
- b. One fault in particular caused Moses to be kept out of the promise land himself
 - i. The children of Israel were complaining as usual to Moses—they were thirsty
 - ii. This time God told Moses to speak to the rock—and it would bring forth water
 - iii. Instead of speaking to it—Moses smote it
 - iv. Because of that—Moses would not be allowed to lead the children of Israel into Canaan

B. The Faithfulness of Christ—*“who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.”*

NOTE: Again—Paul wants to make it clear the similarities between Christ and Moses. That just like Moses, Christ was faithful to God in all his house.

1. Faithful to Carry Out God's Plan

a. He was faithful to come

- i. Jesus didn't have to come—but He chose to come—because He loved His Father
- ii. Jesus—who was God—humbled Himself to the level of man
- iii. He took upon Himself—the role of servant

b. He was faithful to minister

- i. He went all throughout Israel healing the sick
- ii. He cast out devils
- iii. He raised the dead

c. He was faithful to speak

- i. He called the people to repentance—because the kingdom of heaven is at hand
- ii. He unashamedly revealed people for who they were

d. He was faithful to die

- i. He boldly went to the cross to die for sinners

2. Absolute Perfection

- a. The difference between Moses and Christ—is that Christ was without sin
- b. He never disobeyed the Father
- c. He was faithful to finish the work that Christ had set for Him to accomplish

John 17:4—“*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*”

NOTE: At this point in the text, Paul lays out the major difference between Christ and Moses.

Vs. 3—“*For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.*”

C. Moses, the Steward of the House

1. Not Moses’ House

a. The Role of a Steward

- i. The Steward was a person who was put in charge of another person’s property

- ii. With that role—he was given the Master’s authority to carry out the responsibilities
- iii. Biblical Examples

- Joseph was placed into a stewardship over Potiphar’s household
- Daniel was given a stewardship role over the nation of Babylon—by Nebuchadnezzar

b. A steward can claim no ownership

- i. The thing that he is in charge over—is not his
- ii. The master owns everything

2. Moses was a Steward Over a household as well (Israel)

a. Moses was set up by the Lord as the Steward over the Household of Israel

- i. He was not the master of Israel
- ii. He was not the owner of Israel
- iii. He did not start Israel
- iv. Israel did not exist for His purposes

b. His job as steward

i. Moses' job as a steward was to be faithful over the house in which he was set

ii. He was to be faithful to the Master first—the Lord

- He was to be faithful to His will
- He was to be faithful to His purposes
- He was to be faithful with His property

c. Moses was part of the household

NOTE: If you are a believer—you have been given a stewardship as well—in which you are required to be counted as faithful. Your life is not about you. This is not your church. This is not your pew. This is not your building. These people are not your family to do with as you will. We are just stewards over what God has given to us.

Does He see you as faithful over your stewardship?

D. Christ, the Builder of the House—*“For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.”*

1. Christ's Deserved Honor As the Builder of the House

a. The Steward make get honor from His role of Steward—but only because of the builder of the household

b. Christ is the builder of the household of Israel

Colossians 1:16-17—*“for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”*

i. Christ was the one who called Abraham out of the Ur of the Chaldees to make a great nation through him

ii. Christ is the one who preserved that nation from a terrible famine that came upon the land

iii. Christ is the one who raised up Moses to deliver Israel out of bondage

iv. Christ is the one who gave Israel the Law

v. Christ is the one who guided Israel through the wilderness

vi. Christ is the one dealt with Israel's sin—by bringing judgment upon them

vii. Christ was at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of Israel's history

ix. Israel existed because of Him and for Him—He is the builder of the House

c. Because He is the builder—he deserves a greater honor—than the steward of the house

2. Christ is God—the Builder of All Things—
“For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.”

III. He is Greater Because of His Person (vs. 5-6)—*“And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 but Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”*

A. Moses—At Best a Servant

1. Servant—

- a. *Therapon*—is a term of dignity and freedom
- b. Used only once in the New Testament
- c. It speaks of being the highest-ranking servant

2. Moses was the high ranking servant of God

a. He was given the privilege to deliver Israel

b. He was given the privilege to establish Israel

- i. Taking to Mt. Sinai
- ii. Receiving the covenant
- iii. Laying down the laws that would distinguish Israel from the rest of the world

c. He was given the privilege to lead Israel

d. Though Moses was high in rank—he at best was a servant of the Master of the house

B. The Reason For Moses’ Faithfulness—*“And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after”*

1. He Was a Faithful Testimony of Things to Come

a. Moses’ role as servant was not for himself—but for that which would come after him

- i. Moses was not set up for Moses’ sake
- ii. Israel was not set up for Israel’s sake
- iii. They were set up for the purpose of things to come

b. All that was associated with the ministry of Moses—pointed to the ministry of Christ

- i.** The Law pointed to the perfect righteousness of Christ
- ii.** The ceremonies pointed to the works of Christ
- iii.** The temple and all associated with it pointed to the priesthood and sacrifice of Christ

NOTE: As we learned earlier—the whole of the Old Testament points to Christ.

2. Christ Was Moses' Message

NOTE: Paul again makes the distinction between Moses and Christ. Moses was the Servant of the Household. Christ is the Son of the House.

C. Christ the Son—*“but Christ as a son over his own house”*

1. The Son is Greater Than the Servant

- a.** Jesus—as the Son of God—is Lord over the servants of the household
- b.** Jesus is Lord over Moses
 - i.** Jesus deserves greater honor than Moses

ii. He is to be honored on the same level as the Father

2. Christ is Head over His House

- a.** Jesus is greater than all the household of God
- b.** Jesus is what Moses and Israel are all about

D. Paul's Reminder Again—*“whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end”*

1. We are Part of Christ's House

- a.** Your faith has brought you into that household—not physical Israel—but spiritual Israel
- b.** Keep your eyes upon the true Master of the House
- c.** Keep your focus upon the true household of God

2. The Mark of Genuine Faith—*“if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end”*

- a.** The mark of true believers is that they will hold on to the true Master
- b.** They will stay within the true household

CONCLUSION:

Get Your Eyes On Christ

- **Get Your Eyes off of Your Past—Set Them on Christ**
- **Get Your Eyes off of the Insignificant—Get Them on Christ**
- **Get Your Eyes off of your Failures—Get Them on Christ**

Keep Your Eyes on Christ