

Jesus, Greater than Moses

Hebrews 3:1-6

Introduction (Speak Deliberately with Strength)

This morning, I have but one aim in my sermon. Of all the things that I could hope for this sermon to accomplish in your life and in the life of our church, my primary goal is this – to compel you to consider Jesus. To convince you to give your full and abiding attention to Jesus. To cast your gaze upon Jesus. That is my goal – to compel you to consider Jesus.

Why is this my goal? Because it was the author of Hebrews' goal as well, especially in this morning's passage...

Hebrews 3:1-6

¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ²who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Exposition

As I began this sermon, I told you that my goal was the same as the author of Hebrews, namely, **to compel you to consider Jesus**. Following the lead of the author of Hebrews, I want us to look at how Jesus is described in these first six verses of Hebrews 3 in order to help you understand why Jesus is due our abiding consideration...

First, Jesus is described as the Apostle and High Priest of our Confession.

We see this specifically in verses 1-2a. This should lead us to ask the question, “What is the significance of these roles?” Let us consider these roles. First, we encounter the role of apostle. In brief, the term “apostle” means “a sent messenger,” and that is the significance that the term carries in this verse. If you remember from **Heb. 1:1-2**, the author told us that God has definitively spoken in these last days through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As the definitive word from God, Jesus serves as an apostle or a sent messenger to us. In other words, Jesus is revealing God to us. Jesus' disciple, John, knew this when he wrote **John 1:18**, which states, “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.” We know what God is like through the revelation of Jesus Christ. This is the author's point when he refers to Jesus as “the apostle of our confession.” The faith that we confess is a faith revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Apart from His revelation, apart from Jesus revealing the love and mercy of God, we have nothing to confess. We have no hope. We are doomed. Yet, God has made it clear in Jesus that He loves us and desires to be reconciled to us. Hence Paul's message in **2 Cor. 5:18-20**, which states that God reconciled us to himself in Christ and gave us a ministry of reconciliation, that we might implore others to be reconciled to God. We, therefore, know God because Jesus, as the sent messenger, the apostle, has revealed God to us.

Having now established what the author means when he refers to Jesus as “the apostle of our confession,” we can now move into a slightly more familiar territory with the reference to Jesus as our “high priest.” Jesus’ role as high priest received significant attention in later portions of the book of Hebrews, so I will simply note that as high priest, Jesus stands before God as our representative and intercessory, praying for us and pleading the sufficiency of His wounds before the Father on our behalf. In this sense, Jesus, as our high priest, he makes the way for us to God. Our access to God, our bold assurance before God, is acquired by Jesus Christ, the great high priest of our confession.

In sum, then, the author of Hebrews is attempting to compel us to “consider Jesus,” who is to us the revelation of God and our reconciliation to God. Or to put it another way, Jesus is both the message about God and the means to God. He is the apostle who declares God’s word to us and the high priest who makes a way for us to go into the presence of God.

T.S. – So, what other possible reasons do we need for considering Jesus? The author, just in case, we haven’t gotten it yet, provides yet another reason to be captivate by Jesus, and he does so by comparing the work of Jesus to the work of Moses...

Second, Jesus is described as the one who is greater than Moses (Vss. 2b-6a).

Now, it needs to be acknowledge at the forefront that the author’s point is not to denigrate Moses. On the contrary! If the author was attempting to minimize the significance of Moses, he was undercut his primary goal, which, as you remember, is to compel us to see how great Jesus is! If Moses was not great on some level, then the comparison would be pointless. If we want to highlight the greatness of one person by comparing them to someone else, we typically do not point to someone who is not that great. Major league baseball players don’t brag about how much better they are than T-ball players. So, the point is not that Moses was not a great leader of God’s people. The point is that Jesus is even greater than the great Moses.

So, what has Moses done? Well, Moses did a lot, but the author is really concerned with how Moses took care of the household of God as a servant. As a servant, Moses tended to the work of the Lord, faithfully caring for the people and delivering to them the Word of the LORD. It is easy to see the parallel between Jesus’ work and Moses’ work. Just as Jesus is the apostle and high priest of our confession, Moses was the prophet and leader of the Israelites who delivered God’s Word to them and intercede on their behalf before God. And Moses, like Jesus, was an effective intercessory. Yet, while there are some important similarities between Jesus and Moses, there are also some significant differences. Most importantly, whereas Moses cared for God’s house as a servant, Jesus cares for God’s house as the Son. You see, Moses was a part of the house over which Jesus would care and rule as the Son of God. Hence the statement in verse 3, “the builder of the house has more glory than the house itself.”

Therefore, Jesus is worth of more glory than Moses, and Moses is thrilled about it, because Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises that God made to the Israelites through Moses. As **John 1:17** states, “The law was given through Moses; grace and truth comes through Jesus Christ.” Moses’ service in the household of God was all in preparation for the day when the True Son of God, Jesus Christ, would appear and assume lordship over the house that God built for His own glory, revealing God’s grace and the fullness of His truth.

T.S. – So why is there such an emphasis on the superiority of Jesus and our need to consider it?

Conclusion

Like the people of Israel whom Moses served, the audience of the book of Hebrews had to be reminded that if they drifted from God, if they abandoned their confession, if they did not hold fast their confidence in the hope of Christ, then they could not be considered a member of the household of God, and if they were not a member of the household of God, then the faithful work of Jesus on behalf of that house would be of no benefit to them whatsoever. For Jesus was faithful over God’s house as the Son, and we are a part of that house, IF INDEED, we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in Christ!

Naturally, then, the question becomes, “How does one ‘hold fast their confidence and boasting in hope?’” It is by “considering Jesus!” Later in this book, the author is going to tell us to “fix our eyes on Jesus” and we have already heard Paul tell us to “set our minds on things above, where Christ is seated.” So, I must ask you, “What have you fixed your eyes on? Who or what are you giving the greatest consideration to? Is it Jesus? Are you considering Jesus? Or are you considering everything else but Jesus?”

Friends, you can be sure that those who belong to the family of God, who are a part of his house, over whom Jesus looks and cares for as the Son, these “Consider Jesus!”

Are you sure that you belong to this family this morning? Are you a part of the house that God built and that Jesus rules over as the Son? Oh, I hope so! If you are not? Would you consider Jesus today as the One who reveals God to you while also reconciling you to God?

(Help them call upon Jesus)