

Heb. 3:1-6 Jesus Greater than Moses

This morning we gather as Christians. And v. 1 describes for us what this looks like. We are a “holy” family. Back in cp. 2:11 we are called “brothers.” In v. 13 we are the “children” of God, a people, given to the Son. Because of the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, sin and death have been defeated. And Jesus is our propitiation. As the lamb of God, Jesus laid down his life as a sacrifice for his sheep and God has *“laid on him the iniquity of us all”* (Is. 53:6). And now we are called “holy” as a “spiritual” family. When God looks upon us as Christians, he sees the Son. So, if you are a Christian, God does not see your sin, but instead you are called “holy.” You are “seated in the heavenly places with Christ” (Eph. 2:6).

And all of us share in a “heavenly calling.” Here, the author is emphasizing the superiority of Christianity to Judaism, which knew only an earthly calling, with an earthly inheritance. Think about their inheritance. To Abraham it was an earthly nation and the Land of Canaan. As Christians, our calling is a spiritual and our “land” is the new heavens and the new earth! Their citizenship was found in the land of this earth; our citizenship is where? In heaven! And for this we wait! This verse also speaks of a “confession.” As Christians we confess Jesus the Lord, seated at the right hand of the majesty on high. Our hope is not in the prophets, not in the angels, not in Moses. As Paul told Timothy: **“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses”** (1 Tim. 6:12).

Our command today is to: Consider Jesus, who is greater than Moses (topic of cp. 3). Look at v. 3 **“For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses.”** So today, let’s CONSIDER Jesus by comparing his glory with that of Moses. I have 2 main comparisons from our text. Jesus has more glory as: 1) Apostle, and 2) Son. Let’s begin.

1. Consider Jesus who has more glory as an Apostle. Look at v. 1. Jesus is called the “apostle” of our confession. In the NT, this word is used 19 times. And this is the ONLY place Jesus is called an apostle. “Apostle” means one who is sent with authority as an ambassador. When I see the word “apostle” I think of the 12 disciples of Jesus, who are called apostles. They are chosen by Jesus and given a special task of preaching the gospel and continuing his work that He started. These men are those who are “SENT.” And they are given authority for their task. I think of Matt. 28:18-20. Jesus said, *“All authority is given to me, therefore go and make disciples . . .”*

And when we consider Moses, though not called an apostle, He was certainly an apostle. He was sent by God with a special purpose. Do you remember the burning bush? As Moses tended the sheep in the dessert, God appeared to him in a bush that burned, but was not consumed. And there, God revealed himself to Moses. He told Moses, **“Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt”** (Exod. 3:10). Can you think of a greater task for this man Moses than to lead an entire nation out of slavery from the most powerful nation in the world? And then, not merely to lead them out, but to form them as a nation, and to teach them about God, give them his commands, instruct them how to worship. Moses, as God’s “sent one” was responsible for forming a nation, a special nation, a nation that

knows God. And concerning those sent by God in the OT with a task, for the Hebrew, Moses is the greatest apostle.

Let me share something I discovered in study this week. Do you remember when God first appeared to Moses saying, *“I am sending you to Pharaoh?”* What was Moses’ first reaction? *UH, God, can you please send someone else?* (Exod. 4:13) God denies Moses his request. But, God was thinking, *“Moses, I will send someone else. I am sending YOU now to Egypt to establish my people Israel. But, one day, I will send someone else. And He will be the true apostle. And He will establish a new heavens and a new earth. You are from the earth. He is from heaven.”* And later Moses, as God’s prophet would say to the people, **“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen . . .”** (Deut. 18:15)

When we come to the NT, John the Baptist picks up on this great truth. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus, *“Are you the one to come; are you the one who is sent by God?”* And Jesus responds: **“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me”** (Matt. 11:4-6). In John 11, right before raising Lazarus, Jesus says to Martha, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”** And . . . She said to him, **“Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world”** (John 11:25–27). In other words, **“You are the sent One . . . You are God’s apostle . . . You are the ONE of whom Moses and the prophets spoke.”** Did you know that in the Gospel of John alone, Jesus is referred to as the “sent one” more than 30 times?

Today, Christ is not just an apostle, He is THE apostle. God gave Moses his words. But Jesus is the WORD of God. Every word He speaks is God’s word. Moses was given the spirit for this task. But, with Jesus, the Spirit “remains” on Him. He is the fullness of God. Moses was sent under the old covenant, Mosaic Law. Jesus ushered in a new covenant. The Law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. To finish this truth, let’s read John 3:31-34 together with responsive reading.

Pastor: He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way.

Congregation: He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

Pastor: For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

Congregation: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

2. Consider Jesus who has more glory as the Son. Here, the author compares a “servant” or “slave” in a household with the “son.” Look at vv. 3-6: **“For 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. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son.”** Here, we see that both Moses and Jesus were faithful. So the author is not comparing faithfulness. He is comparing their position, one is a servant in the household, the other is the Son of the builder. And, we will also see in a moment that Jesus is also the builder.

What do you think of when you think of the word GOAT? Who is better? Michael Jordan or Lebron? Who is better? Wayne Gretsky or Alexander Ovechkin? Who is better? Tiger Woods or Jack Nicklaus? We can compare all day and disagree. But, at the end of the day when we compare men with one another, we are comparing apples to apples. We are making comparisons with those who have the same kind of glory. We could compare other things in this world. Think of snail. What an amazing creature! Consider the ant. There are none like it. Move to larger creatures, the cat or dog. What about an elephant, or giraffe? Here we can make other comparisons and draw conclusions. Or, we can consider other created objects such as stars and planets and asteroids and galaxies, etc. All of these have their own glory! And what about mankind. We are given the greatest of glory as those who dwell on the earth. And then consider the angels. They have a different kind of glory. And all these things are created objects, creatures, and beings.

As one who was faithful, Moses had great honor and glory. And, as a Jewish person, there is arguably no one person with more “glory” than Moses. Consider Moses and his faithfulness in all of what God sent him to do. There is no equal as a man, at least when you consider his place in the forming of the nation of Israel. And, he had great honor and great glory. But the glory of Christ is of a different kind. The Scriptures say He is the image of the invisible God. He is the Word of God. If you’ve seen Him, you’ve seen the Father. He is the creator of the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God. He is the exact imprint of his nature. He upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high. To the angels, God says, worship him. And He says, “your throne, O God is forever and ever.” He is eternal. The earth will pass away, but He remains. No one ever worships Moses. For God says, “I will not give my glory to another.” Yet, in Heb. 1 & 2 we see that the Son DOES have the same glory as the Father.

Brothers and sisters, when we consider Moses, we aren’t comparing apples to apples, MJ with Lebron, or even ants to angels! We cannot do more justice to the person of Christ than the words here in Hebrews 1 & 2! YES Moses was faithful. But, his faithfulness as a servant of God’s house is merely a picture of the Son who is the heir, and even the builder of God’s house. Literally, HE IS the GOAT! Moses was created. He is the creator. Moses was an apostle. Jesus is THE apostle. Moses was a priest of the earth. Jesus is the high priest of heaven. Moses is the servant. Jesus is the Son. Moses is a part of God’s household. Jesus Himself is the builder.

Moses could no more take us to heaven than he could build a spaceship and transport us to Mars. He was certainly faithful to what God had appointed him, but his faithfulness was only meant to point us to the one whose faithfulness DOES lead us to heaven! This is the Son of God, the Lord of glory! Look at v. 5: Moses is a servant! And his service was meant for what? **“To testify to the things that were to be spoken later . . .”** **“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son . . .”** (Gal. 4:4). Today, as Christians, and as the angels, we worship the Son, who is both the Son and the builder of the great household of God.

Let me ask, *“what is the great household of God over which Jesus is faithful?”* It is the people of God, of whom Moses was only a servant, as all of us are. Look at v. 6 **“And we are his house . . .”** We’ve seen this already back in cp. 2 Jesus is the founder of a new family. Look back at 2:10 **“For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory . . .”** And then in vv. 11-12: **“For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers . . .”** And then in v. 13: **“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”** And then v. 16: **“For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.”** Today, Jesus is building a people. In the NT, this is the church. Back in 3:1 the author tells us to Consider Jesus, who is the high priest of our confession. I think of the great confession of Peter from Matt. 16:13-18. In this passage we see that Jesus is being compared to men. But, by the power of the Holy Spirit Peter understands. Let me read those words.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Today, the Church of Christ is built upon the Rock of Glory, Jesus Christ, who is Himself the master builder.

Now, for just a few minutes, I want to continue this comparison with 3 truths with the aim of application.

i. Moses, as a servant just like us, did not have the power to command the hearts of men. Never did Moses have the power to compel the people to receive or believe his words. In other words Moses did not have power of the hearts of men. But Jesus commands the heart. Matt. 11:27: **“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”** John 5:21-23: **“For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.”** John 17:1-2: **“Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.”** Moses wrote the words of God on tablets of stone; the Lord Jesus IS the WORD of God and He writes his

words upon the hearts of sinful men and women. Moses was not given Holy Spirit without measure. But, as God in the flesh, the Holy Spirit “rests” continually upon the Son.

ii. With Moses, the people merely received his message. But today, We receive Jesus Himself. In this way, the messenger is also the message to be received. In Matt. 10:40 Jesus says, “**Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.**” John 1:11-12: “**He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**” Today if you are a Christian, you have not merely received the words of a prophet like Moses, but you have received the Lord Jesus Himself. If you are not a Christian today, do not refuse the ONE who speaks. As the author of Hebrews tells us later in 12:25: “**See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.**”

iii. Moses only knew what God told him. He was acquainted with very little. What he needed to know God revealed to him. But, it is not so with the Son. John 1:17-18: “**For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.**” Jesus, as the Son, the who has come from the “Father’s side,” knows what God knows. He is acquainted with all the secret counsels of God. For in HIM are found ALL the treasures and infinite wisdom of God. “**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell**” (Col. 1:19). Therefore, if we will know God, if we will know the wisdom and treasures of God, we will find them as we “Consider” Christ.

Let me end with a couple quick applications.

Our sanctification comes as we consider the person and work of Christ. It is interesting that as we consider Christ in his person and his work [which is what Hebrews is doing] our faith “grows.” The letter of Hebrews “BUILDS” with more and more arguments, more and more truths, etc. And, as we consider them, our understanding also grows. And in turn, we are more godly! We grow in sanctification.

So, another application for us is to CONSIDER Christ in all the Bible. It is a never ending search for truth. And we don’t have to search very far. We have the Scriptures; we have the Holy Spirit. It is there for us. It is our treasure. And we cannot exhaust it.

This will be the topic of cps. 3-4 but look at the end of v. 6 in closing: “**And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.**” If you find yourself over time holding fast with confidence and hope to the gospel of Christ, you can find great assurance that you are a Christian.