



5: Better Than Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6)

Moses was the Hebrew hero from long ago, but he taught that Someone Greater was on the way. Today we discover that as great as Moses was, Jesus is better.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

MOSES - Hebrew Hero

- Moses is mentioned by name in the New Testament writings almost 80 times!
- Moses is often quoted as an authority: *Moses commanded* (Mk 1:44)...*permitted* (Mk 10:4)...*wrote* (Mk 12:19).
- Genesis through Deuteronomy were known as "the Law of Moses" (Lk 24:44, Jn 7:23).

The spotlight of the Scriptures isn't placed on prophets, angels, or Moses, because Jesus is Better than them all.

Catch the Context Last week - ***Jesus is Our Humble High Priest***, the One who has experienced yet conquered temptation. After making payment for our sins on the cross, Jesus is able to help us when we are tempted because He is merciful & faithful. He is not ashamed to make us holy and call us His family!

Hebrews 3:1-2 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the **Apostle and High Priest** of our confession. He was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses was in all God's household.

The author wants us to **consider Jesus** - to focus our gaze on *WHO He is* and *WHAT He has done* for us. Then he compares & contrasts **Jesus as the Apostle and High Priest** to Moses - the hero of the Hebrews.

Apostle Why does the author call Jesus "**the Apostle**"? This is *THE ONLY TIME this term is used of Jesus in all of the New Testament writings*.

- **Jesus** called His closest disciples "apostles" (meaning "**sent out**") as they were the authorized messengers of Jesus. But *way before Jesus sent them out, the Father sent Jesus out to proclaim the good news*.
- **Moses had been sent out** (apostle) from Yahweh to bring the Hebrew people out of slavery. (1400 years before Jesus put on skin)

High Priest

- **Jesus** is called our "high priest" (Heb 2:27), the mediator between God and mankind, the *WAY* (Jn 14:6) that mankind can have relationship with God. Early Christians were known as "followers of the Way" (Acts 9:2, 19:9, 23).
- How is **Moses referred to as "high priest"**? Aaron (Moses' brother) was the official high priest, yet *Moses was the true mediator between God and the Hebrew people* (Moses spoke to God on their behalf, and who God used Moses to speak to them).

Exodus 33:7b-11a (LEB) ...all seeking Yahweh would go out to the tent of assembly, which *was* outside the camp. And at the going out of Moses to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each at the opening of his tent, and gaze after Moses until his entering the tent. And at the entering of Moses *into* the tent the column of cloud would descend and stand *at* the opening of the tent, and **He would speak with Moses**. And all the people would see the column of cloud standing *at* the opening of the tent, and all the people would rise and bow in worship, each *at* the opening of his tent. And **Yahweh would speak to Moses** face to face, as a man speaks to his neighbor. And he would return to the camp...

Both Moses and Jesus were **faithful apostles & high priests**, sent by God (*apostle*) to speak for God & mediate (*high priest*) between God and His people, but the author highlights how **Jesus is Better than Moses**.

Hebrews 3:3-4 For **Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses**, just as the builder has more honor than the house. Now every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God.

• **Moses** is compared to the **house**, while **Jesus** is compared to the **builder** of the house. Jesus said:

Matthew 16:18 I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Jesus built His house/church with the building materials supplied by the Father, "**the one who built everything**". Jesus prayed to the Father:

John 17:6-8 I have revealed Your Name **to the people You gave Me** from the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me is from You, because I have given them the words You gave Me. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me.

As great as Moses was, he was only part of the building, **not the Builder**. As highly revered as he was among the Hebrew people, they still expected **a future prophet** that would fulfill a similar role to His own. Following the resurrection & ascension of Jesus (during the Hebrew Festival of Pentecost) Peter introduces Jesus as that **prophet**, spoken of by Moses 1400 years earlier:

Acts 3:22-23 Moses said: *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to everything he tells you. And everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be completely cut off from the people.* [Deut 18:15,19]

The prophecy from **Deut 18:15-19** immediately applied to Joshua (Moses' 2nd in command who took over upon his death), and other Hebrew prophets who would follow, **it is clear that the Hebrew people saw this "prophet like Moses" as either speaking of the coming Messiah or the herald preparing His way.* The Hebrew people were expecting to see this "prophet like Moses" during Jesus' life.

- Some thought **John the Baptist** fit this description as they asked him, "**Are you the Prophet?**" (Jn 1:21b)
- **Some thought Jesus fit the description of "a prophet like Moses."** This is how many people responded to Jesus' message (Jn 7:40) and miracles (like the feeding of 5000+).

John 6:14 When the people saw the sign He had done, they said, "This truly is **the Prophet** who is to come into the world."

The disciples of Jesus claim that Moses is writing about Jesus!

John 1:45 We have found **the One Moses wrote about** in the law (and so did the prophets): **Jesus** the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.

Jesus echoed this claim.

John 5:46 For if you believed **Moses**, you would believe me, because **he wrote about Me**.

🕒 *Side Note:* Almost every cult leader tries to read themselves into the ancient writings.

❓ **So what's the difference between Jesus cult leaders? EVIDENCE.** The message and miracles of Jesus proved He was better than Moses & perfectly fulfilled the role of who Moses called "*a prophet like me*" (Deut 18:15).

The ultimate evidence is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead! After His resurrection, Jesus pointed to the Scriptures to show they spoke of Him.

Luke 24:27 Then **beginning with Moses** and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them **the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures**.

Jesus is Better Than Moses! *Moses was an important MEMBER of the house, but Jesus was the MAKER of the house! The Hebrews who were being tempted to return to the Old Covenant needed to note that **they could not return to Moses and ignore Jesus**¹ since Moses was faithful to point people TO Him.*

¹ Thomas D. Lea, *Hebrews, James*, vol. 10, *Holman New Testament Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 46.

Far from discounting the vital role Moses played reminds the readers that...

Hebrews 3:5-6a Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's household, as a testimony to what would be said in the future. But **Christ** was **faithful** as a **Son over his household**.

Again, the writer draws the comparison between **Moses as a faithful servant**, and **Jesus as a faithful Son**. The **servant** did not have authority over the house, but the Son of the owner was the inheritor of the house.

*Moses was a faithful servant, but **Jesus is Better than Moses**, because Jesus is the faithful Son.*

Hebrews 3:6-7 But Christ was faithful as a Son over His household. And **we are that household** if we **hold on to our confidence** and the hope in which we boast.

If we trust what *the faithful servant* (Moses) said, so **HOW MUCH MORE** should we **hold on to our confidence and the hope** we have in Jesus, *the faithful Son*?

Now, just as He is faithful to us, may we **hold on** - keep a tight grip and don't slip - to be faithful to Him! Consider Jesus and hold onto Him!

❓ Is that TRUE OF YOU?

FEET2FAITH

1. **Get back in the Gospels and read about Jesus!** Get back to the **WONDER** of Who He really is!
2. When you're struggling, **call a Christian friend to REMIND YOU WHY Jesus is worthy of your life!** (Your Staff and deacons/wives are here for you!)
3. **Hold on to Jesus & Remember His faithfulness.** Write down how He is been faithful and write down how you have been faithful to Him over the day!

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).