

Jesus is the Faithful Son
Portrait three of Jesus in Hebrews

Opening Prayer & Introduction:

Welcome! This is the third message in the Hebrews series. The first eight messages in the series will look at portraits of Jesus that argue for His divinity. Pastor Joel has used the word "apologetic" several times already. Apologetics is the art of defending religious doctrines through systematic argumentation and discourse. It would seem that some of the Hebrews were waffling in their faith...perhaps considering turning back from following Christ. There were many pressures in the early church that made a conversion to Christ culturally difficult for Jewish believers. For example, John 12:42-43 says that many on the council of the Sanhedrin were secret believers in Jesus Christ, but not openly, fearing what it would cost them if anyone found out. Proverbs 29:25 reminds us that the fear of man is a snare, but whoever trusts in God will be safe.

So far in our Hebrews study we have seen Jesus as the Revelation of God, Jesus as the Redeemer of Mankind, and now, Jesus as the Faithful Son. Two big ideas emerged in this week's study. First, Jesus is superior to Moses, the hero of the Jewish faith. Second, the writer warned the Jews about the perils of rebelling against Christ like their fathers had rebelled against Moses.

Ice Breaker Question: Why did the writer of Hebrews go to such great lengths to show that Jesus was superior to Moses?

Key Scripture: *Hebrews 3:14 - "For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."*

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding Jesus as superior to Moses challenge or deepen your appreciation for the grace available through Christ rather than through religious traditions and rules?
2. In what ways might Christians today be tempted to drift back into performance-based religion or rule-keeping rather than resting in Christ's finished work on the cross?
3. What lies has the enemy whispered to you about your worthiness, your past, or your place in the church, and how can you combat those with biblical truth?

4. What is the difference between backsliding, struggling with sin, and apostasy, and why is it important to distinguish between these concepts?
5. If salvation is the starting line rather than the finish line, what does it practically look like to hold fast your confidence steadfast to the end?
6. How should the sobering reality that an entire generation missed the Promised Land due to unbelief motivate us to guard our hearts and stay close to Christ?

Practical Applications:

1. **The "Battle Buddy" Challenge:** Do you have a Christian friend who encourages you daily in your faith? If not, who in this group or your church could you begin a Christian friendship with today?
2. **Spiritual Inventory:** Take an honest assessment of your personal spiritual health
 - When did you last read your Bible outside of church?
 - How consistent is your prayer life?
 - Are you using your spiritual gifts?
 - Are you worshipping God throughout the week?
 - Are you connected to Christian community?

Identify one weak area and make a specific plan to strengthen it.

3. The sermon mentioned that the devil whispers lies to us about ourselves, God, the Bible, and the church. What lie have you been most tempted to believe recently? How can you counter that lie with truth?

Key Takeaways:

- **Jesus is Superior to Moses** - While Moses was a faithful servant in God's house, Jesus is the faithful Son who built the house. Jesus is the Creator, Redeemer, and sustainer of all things.
- **The Danger of Spiritual Drift** - Christians can drift away from faith through neglect, deception, and isolation. The warning is clear: don't rebel against Jesus like the Hebrew fathers rebelled against Moses in the wilderness.
- **Security in Christ Requires Abiding** - We are eternally secure in Christ *as we abide in Him*. Apostasy (willful, deliberate rejection of Christ) is different from backsliding, doubting, or struggling with sin.
- **The Power of Community** - We need daily encouragement from fellow believers to prevent spiritual drift and hardening of hearts.

Closing Prayer:

Let's take a few moments to pray about the things that we have studied this week and to make it personal. As God leads you, pray for yourself and for someone else in the group. Perhaps you would like to pick one person to pray for secretly this week.