



Hebrews 3:1-6 Consider Jesus

Summary: In a world full of distractions, Christians are called to consider Jesus – who He is and what He has done for us.

Everything we're going to talk about this morning can be summed up with two words: [consider Jesus](#); which is a call to action, a call to pay attention which is increasingly difficult to do these days, isn't it? We live in an age of constant distraction where large portions of the economy depend on the ability to gain and keep your attention. And yet, we're told this morning to [consider Jesus](#).

But here's the good news: if you came this morning, looking for hope, looking for help, looking for rest in your soul, looking for something you can believe in, hold on to, find joy in and have confidence in, well, you're in the right place, all that is found in [Jesus](#) and when you [consider](#) Him, you'll see.

By now you know the message of Hebrews is: Jesus is better. You know God is speaking through Creation, through conscience, through the prophets recorded in Scripture, through the Holy Spirit, and most clearly in Jesus. You know that Jesus is better than the prophets, better than the angels, and now this morning, we learn that He is better than Moses.

And so, we are encouraged to [consider Jesus](#) and hold tightly to Him with [confidence, joy, and hope](#):

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, 2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. 3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. 5 And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

I want to frame our time together this morning under three headings: who we are, who Jesus is, and what we are called to do.

So, first, let's look at who we are. And right away I need to clarify my terms. There are two groups of people listening to my voice right now – those who *are* [\(vs 1\) holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling](#), and those who *are not*. Now, if you are not, if you are not a Christian, if you are still making up your mind about Jesus, if you're working through some things, that's great, it's awesome, I'm glad you're here. If there is anything we can do

to help you, please let us know. We would love to see you become someone who trusts and follows Christ. We would love for you to have what we're going to talk about this morning, but we have to be really, really, clear – these are the benefits and challenges of those who are *already holy brethren* and sistren and children – anyone who has already received Christ.

So let's talk about that now. Let's talk about who you are *if* you are in Christ and Christ is in you. And right away we circle back to this idea: you are holy. Set apart. *That's present tense reality*. This is not what you will be one day. It's what you are, right now. You ARE holy if you are in Christ. And that means you're not like other people. As we have said before, there are only two kinds of people in this world, saints and aints. If you are in Christ, you are a saint. If you are not, you ain't. That's bad grammar, but good theology.

The question is, do you see yourself as a saint? Probably not. And that frustrates me. It discourages me. You don't see yourself the way God sees you. You think about what you wish you were like, you think about the way other people see you, you think about the things you wish you could change, or what you will be one day, and God, right here, right now, says if you're in Christ, you're a saint. A holy member of His family.

But you think only some people are saints. You think only some people are holy. Weird people. Awkward people. Old people. And the Church has directly contributed to the problem. Some of you grew up in churches that had a special process for recognizing someone as a saint, as a special category of person, someone who lived well and did miracles. That's not what the Bible says. The Bible says this room is full of saints – and some aints – its full of people who are holy, and it means you.

If that makes you uncomfortable, there may be some things you need to ask God to help you clean up and fix up in your life, maybe that discomfort is a good thing, a diagnostic tool for your soul, but it doesn't change things. If you have partaken in the heavenly calling – if you have heard the call to come to Jesus and responded, you have been commissioned, you have been sanctified, you're *holy*.

And, more than that, you are *holy brethren*, you are part of a family, you are connected to something larger than yourself. This is a point made all over Scripture. God takes people from every conceivable background and forges them together into one holy community, one holy Church. The gospel becomes the glue that holds people together from totally unrelated backgrounds, it levelizes differences in income, differences in professional or community status, brings together ethnicities, and different political parties, it overcomes and heals and seeks to prevent future acts of discrimination and prejudice.

It doesn't do it perfectly – no family is perfect, but *this is the goal*, and it's why the idea of family, of connection, plays such a central role in the Christian faith – that Christ our brother is leading us into deeper connection with God our Father and with one another.

So, I want to drill down a little deeper on this idea of *holy brethren* because I want you to see the layers of connection here. First, there was community and connection among the

people who received this letter. It was addressed to them as a group, not as individuals and that is true of so many of the letters in the New Testament – books like Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and more were addressed *to the church* in that city or region, *all the Christians in that place* were addressed together because they were together – connected by worship and fellowship.

Church, this is SO important, do not merely see yourself as *a* Christian, see yourself as part of the family of God as well. See that you belong in something. You belong in a local church with holy brothers and sisters among [holy brethren](#).

But notice, your local church is also connected to something global and historical. There's a lot of scholarly debate over who wrote this letter to the Hebrews, but whoever it was lived far enough away to write them a letter and yet calls them [holy brethren](#). And it wasn't because they had the same mom. It was because they had the same Heavenly Father.

Christian, you have relational connection with people who love and cherish Christ in Beijing and Birmingham and Berlin, you are brothers and sisters with those who worshipped Christ in the Dark Ages, the Middle Ages, and the Age of Industrialization. You are you, but you are also part of something much larger. You are a brother or sister to others in the Church and they are connected to you.

And all of that happens because you were called and adopted in. Remember last week we devoted so much time and energy to understanding the fact that Jesus is not ashamed of you. Hebrews 2:11 says [He is not ashamed to call them](#), to call us, to call you, [brethren](#). He knows everything about you, He is not ignorant, and yet even with all that knowledge, [He is not ashamed to call \[you\] brethren. Holy brethren.](#)

You are connected to God the Father through Christ our brother who connects you with the church locally and the Church globally. There are no independent, unconnected, Christians. Now, again, you might need to align your life and practice with that truth, you might need to press in and get and remain connected to a local body, but you *are* connected.

And the more you work to strengthen that connection the more you will experience growth personally and witness growth in others because we bring things out of each other that would not otherwise emerge.

I have three kids, each with their own personality, two boys and our youngest is a girl. When all three of them are together you get one dynamic. When you have each kid on their own you have a separate dynamic. But what's really amazing is what happens when you get them into pairs. The boys bring something out of each other that their sister does not. They interact one way. But their sister interacts with each of them differently. She and our oldest brings things out of each other that don't happen with our middle child. And, he brings things out of her that her older brother does not.

The point is, they all add to each other. They pull things out of each other that would not come out with someone else, or if they were alone, or if they were just one member of a

larger group. What are you missing out on when you're not around other believers? What are they missing out on? What could you be pulling out of them? And, of course, the closer we get to Jesus, the more we see what He is pulling out of, or developing in us.

Church, [holy brethren](#), holy sisters, we are meant to be connected together. You belong here. We belong together. Because this is the [heavenly calling](#) of God in Christ.

So let's turn to consider Him now. He was

[Hebrews 3:2](#) ... faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. [3](#) For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. [4](#) For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. [5](#) And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, [6](#) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

We've already seen Jesus compared to the prophets and the angels, now He is compared to Moses who was the central figure in Hebrew culture and Jewish religion. Moses is considered the author of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible that tell the story of Creation, Sin and the Fall; they record God calling Noah and Abraham, and the founding of the nation of Israel. These books tell us how God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt using Moses who then led the people toward the Promised Land and received and passed along instruction from God for how His people were to live and worship.

It's important to know, our text is not putting Moses down. In fact, it's lifting him up. It says he was [faithful](#) to what God called him to and he is worthy of honor. It's just that Jesus is better. Which is actually something Moses said would happen. Toward the end of his life Moses told the people,

[Deu 18:15](#) "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,"

In fact, when Jesus' disciples first met Him, some of them went and gathered their friends and family saying

[John 1:45](#) ... "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

They actually shared many things in common. Both led God's people closer to Him. Both left their father, in Moses' case his adopted father, Pharaoh, to be with God's people. But they were different in significant ways as well. Moses was called by God, Jesus was God. Moses was a servant, Jesus is the Son. Moses gave the Law, Jesus fulfilled the Law. Moses led the nation, Jesus established it. Moses led people out of slavery in Egypt, Jesus led people out of

slavery in sin. Moses was called by God, used by God, but Jesus was better He is [the Apostle and High Priest of our confession](#).

So what does all that mean? Well, an apostle is one who is sent out by another, a kind of messenger or representative similar to the idea of an ambassador, someone who acts on the authority of, and speaks with the voice of, the king or country he represents.

Many years ago, I was a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, a young, enlisted, NCO. I had a little bit of rank and authority, but not much.

At the time though, I worked directly for the Commanding General of 1st Marine Division. I wore two stripes on my uniform, he wore two stars. There were many times when I would go places and ask for things or deliver things, and I would say the General needs this, or the General wants this to happen, and the person at the desk or at the door or at the gate – often one of my peers or someone junior to me would say, hold on, just a minute, and they would go and get the most senior person around – someone that significantly outranked me, and I would repeat what I said and within minutes that person would ensure that my business was taken care of. That’s the power of an apostle, an ambassador, a representative.

But, and this is SUPER important, Jesus did not just come to bring a message. God speaks through Creation, through conscience, He sent prophets, and the Holy Spirit, He’s given us Scripture – God has no problem communicating to us. In fact, the problem is almost never that we don’t *know* what God wants, it’s that we don’t *want* what God wants. We rebel and resist, we defy and debate, like theological teenagers making a case for why we should get to do things our way.

That is sin. And a holy and just God should punish such acts of intentional resistance. So, Jesus came to be our [High Priest](#) as well, to offer Himself as a sacrifice, to make payment for our sin, to fulfill our debts, and re-establish our connection with God. As an Apostle He brings us *a word from God*, as the [High Priest of our confession](#) He offers us *a way to God*.

The Latin word for priest is *pontifex*, which means, bridge-builder. So, the role of the priest is to speak to men for God and to speak to God for men. In order to do that, you have to know both God and men, and nobody could do that better than Jesus because He was both fully God and fully man.

And this, as will learn later in Hebrews, is what makes Jesus better than all the high priests that have ever walked the earth – He is fully God but fully able to relate to you, to sympathize with you, He came down to do this work, to save you and never needed to worry about His own sin getting in the way or slowing up the process.

OK, so, I said we wanted to talk about who we are – [holy brethren](#), saints who have been called by God, formed into a family, given a relationship with God and with each other because Jesus has made a way. We’ve seen that He came to bring us a word from God and

make way to God for us, He didn't just give us rules to live by, or tell us how to worship, He became a sacrifice for us that provokes us to worship.

So now here's the call to action – all of that is information, here's what we have to do with it:

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, *consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,*

We are called to **consider Jesus**. But that's not consider like you consider the menu at Chipotle – do I want the chicken or the barbacoa this time? Do I want the burrito or the tacos, black beans or pinto? It's not consider like, what do you think, what do you want, have you thought about this? No, it's 'consider' like, *concentrate* on this, take a good hard look at this, fix your attention, behold, perceive, discover, regard.

When Jesus was trying to help people understand how much God is concerned about them and aware of their needs, He said,

Luke 12:27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

When Peter had a vision of a sheet being let down from heaven full of all kinds of animals, he *considered* what it meant.

It's like when you're trying really hard to figure something out. Something has captured your attention. *Consider* it. **Consider Jesus** that way. Think about Him, try to understand what we're to learn, what it all means.

My brothers, my sisters, my friends, we have to see this – we have to hear this, over and over again - the Scripture in general and Hebrews in particular is trying to say – **consider Jesus**. Don't drift away (Heb 2:1). Don't lose sight... **(Heb 3:6) hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**

Here's my concern. I'm concerned that we pay too much attention to other things. I'm concerned that we give too much of our attention, energy, and time to *considering* things without involving Jesus.

I'm concerned that you've spent a lot of time considering the elections. You've spent a lot of time considering vaccination rates and mandates. You've spent a lot of time considering what your friends are up to or what's happening online. You've spent a lot of time considering what's happening on ESPN or where you might want to move to get away from all this.

And I want to be clear – there might be nothing wrong with those things, but are you also **considering Jesus**? And, are you *considering* how Jesus relates to any of those things? How does He fit in, and does it make a difference?

We live constantly distracted lives, we're all Pavlov's little puppies now responding to the latest notification, alert, text or tweet or suggested video. Where, when, and how do we **consider Jesus**?

Are you holding **fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end**?

God is calling you into His house. He's made you a saint. He's given you a family and a place to belong. He has come to you and come for you.

I want to encourage you to **consider** Him. I want to encourage you to wake up each morning and **consider** Him before you **consider** what's going on online. Check in with Jesus before you check in with your phone.

I want you to begin to make a habit of praying – God, would you make me an apprentice to Jesus today? Would you help me to **consider Him**, walk with Him, and reflect Him today? Father, by your grace, and through the power of your Holy Spirit in me, would you make me an apprentice to Jesus today and help me **consider** what that might mean.

I want to encourage you to pray about the things happening in your life and ask: God, where are you in this? What are You doing in this? I know that You are everywhere, I know that You know all things. I know that nothing happens without Your knowledge, so help me to **consider** – where are You in this?

Then, at night, I want to encourage you to put down your book, turn off your TV, go plug in your phone *outside your bedroom*, and take a few minutes to **consider** your day and everything you've seen and heard, everything you're wondering about, worried about, or worked up about, **consider** all of that in light of **Jesus – the Apostle and High Priest of our confession**. How does He make a difference in it all?

Friends, becoming a Christian and being a Christian happen the same way – by **considering Jesus** and hoping in Him with a hope that produces **confidence, joy, and boasting**. He is God's **Apostle** who announces the Way, He is the **High Priest of our confession** who makes a way, He is **the way, the truth, and the life** (John 14:6). So let us be intentional, let us **consider Him**, all He has done for us, and all He is making us today. Let us worship Him, let us trust Him, let us invite Him deeper into our lives as He has given Himself entirely for us.

Let's pray.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Rom 15:13



Sermon Application and Discussion Questions

Hebrews 3:1-6 Consider Jesus

Summary: In a world full of distractions, Christians are called to consider Jesus – who He is and what He has done for us.

- What do most people think of when they think of saints?
 - Who is the most 'saintly' person you know?
 - Do you have a hard time thinking of yourself as a saint?
 - Why, or why not?
 - What do you think you need to do, personally, to be saintly?

- What does it mean to you to be part of the family of God?
 - How have you benefited from being connected to God our Father and Christ our brother?
 - How have you benefitted from being connected to the family of God, the church, throughout time and history?
 - How have you been able to serve the larger family of God?
 - How have you benefitted from being connected to a local family of God, the church?
 - How have you been able to serve the local family of God?
 - What would you say to someone who hasn't found a local church or doesn't think it's that important to be connected to one since they're already connected to God on their own?
 - Pastor Jeff shared how each of his kids brings something unique out of their siblings. How has fellowship with other Christians brought something better out of you?

- We are partakers of a heavenly calling. Consider each of the following Scriptures and what you learn about your calling
 - Ephesians 1:18-19
 - Philippians 3:14
 - 1 Peter 5:10
 - 2 Peter 1:10

- Jesus is better than Moses. How does knowing the Old Testament increase your appreciation of the things you see in the New Testament?

- What gets in the way of you considering Jesus? What competes for your attention?
 - Identify one major issue in your life right now. Where is God in it? How does considering Jesus affect the way you consider this issue?