

October 21, 2018 - Hebrews 2:16- 3:1- 6 - “Consider our High Priest, Jesus”

Introduction

Some men in a pickup truck drove into a lumberyard. One of the guys walked in the office and said, ‘We need some four-by-twos.’ The clerk said, ‘You mean two-by-fours, don’t you?’ The man said, ‘I’ll go check,’ and went back to the truck. He returned in a minute and said, Yeah, I meant two-by-fours.’ All right. How long do you need them?’ The customer paused for a minute and said, ‘I’d better go check.’ After a while, the customer returned to the office and said, We’re building a house so a long time. I don’t think I want those guys building my house.

The John Hancock Tower in Boston is a 60-story skyscraper unveiled in 1976 it was designed by I.M. Pei & Partners architectural firm. This striking looking skyscraper has a discreet appearance but was found plagued with problems. One of the major issues with this building was with the windows: they were falling and crashing down to the pavement hundreds of feet below. Eventually, all 10,000 windows had to be replaced which cost nearly 5 million dollars. The skyscrapers sway was so excessive people on the higher level of the tower complained of motion sickness. Every great building you see has a great builder, and a great architect. A great building or house just doesn’t appear. The church building didn’t just appear. Someone had to build it. Folks, the greatest building we build is this tabernacle. This chapter of Hebrews is written for us to consider Christ in charge of God’s house. We are God’s house and...

I Our High Priest is Jesus (2:16-18 -3:1-2).

1. Jesus didn't come to die for angels but for the descendants of Abraham and all those Abraham was to bless; Galatians 3:29 verify this truth. To bring about salvation, it was necessary for Jesus to be made in every way like His brethren (2:17a)). Jesus didn't just look human; He was human in all things, except He never sinned. He became totally human so He could be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God. He became our High Priest to make reconciliation (atonement) for our sins (2:17b). By becoming human in every way, Jesus experienced every feeling we will ever have and more. He was tempted, mistreated, abused, lied about, rejected, betrayed, beaten, and even killed. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. Hb. 4:15

2. Jesus was tempted so He is able to help us when we are tempted (2:18). We are tempted on a regular basis this is a certainty in the Christian life. When we are tempted, Jesus is our merciful and faithful high priest who helps us. Our High Priest is not some impersonal, cosmic force that is indifferent to our needs. Our High Priest is Jesus who knows our hurts, pain, weaknesses, and the strong appeal of our temptations. He feels are infirmities.

3. It is to Christ our high priest that we turn when we are facing temptation. God is not unsympathetic he is unconcerned with our struggle to live righteously. God knows how difficult it is to resist sin and withstand temptation. We can approach Christ with confidence, knowing that He understands our dilemma. He knows how to aid us when we are tempted and there is no better or greater.

4. The writer states “consider” Jesus (3:1 a). The word translated “consider” means to examine carefully. This examination should begin by carefully considering that Jesus is superior to Moses because He is our Apostle- one sent forth with orders as a High Priest.(3:1b). He was faithful to God who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful to God's calling (3:2). The word Apostle means "one sent forth with a message." Jesus repeatedly describes Himself as having been sent by the Father. In John 6:38 we read ' For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

More than twenty times in the gospels, Jesus describes Himself as being sent by the Father into this world. For example, Jesus said that whoever hears His Word and believes on Him who sent Him has everlasting life and will not be condemned (Jn. 5:24).

5. The greatest Prophet of the Jews was Moses and for good reason. God miraculously protected Moses at birth and personally spoke to him from the burning bush. Moses used his staff to perform miracles in Egypt, persuading Pharaoh to let his people go. Moses performed more miracles than anyone else in the Old Testament. On Mount Sinai, he received the Ten Commandments and the plans for building the tabernacle. Moses also wrote the first five books of the Bible. However, Numbers 12:3 tell us this truth about Moses ... Now the man Moses [was] very meek, above all the men which [were] upon the face of the earth.)?

The Hebrew word translated meek is most often translated "humble." It took forty years of Moses tending sheep in the wilderness for God to teach him meekness, or humility. Another reason Moses was Israel's national hero is God told Aaron that his brother Moses was more faithful than anyone else in the house of Israel (Num. 12:7).

Although Moses is never called an apostle in the Bible, in the purest sense of the word, he was one. However, Jesus is apostle and High Priest, King and the Mighty God. As Apostle, Jesus represents God to us. As High Priest, He represents us to God. A high priest is a mediator. Moses was a great man but, there is a greater One! His name is Jesus Christ!

Jesus wants to be your High Priest; he is your own spiritual "Defense Attorney," Even the great Moses cannot plead your case before God. When you are guilty of sin and feel God doesn't love you and can't use you anymore, remember He is your faithful ... High Priest who has never lost a case. Therefore...

II Our Trust is in Jesus (3:3-6a).

1. Jesus deserves more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house deserves more glory and honour than the house (3:3). No matter how spectacular a building might be, the builder deserves more glory than the building itself. Every house has a builder, but God is the builder of everything (3:4). Notice the switch from calling Jesus the builder in verse 3 and to calling God the builder in verse 4. This is because John 10:30 share with us a wonderful revelation of Jesus that he and God are one and the same. Moses cannot make that claim.

2. In the Bible, the word house is used in two ways. It can refer to a building or dwelling place, and it can refer to a household or nation, as it does in this passage. The phrase house of Israel is used more than 140 times in the Old Testament. Moses played an important role in building the house of God. His name is mentioned more than 700 times in the Old Testament and more than 80 times in the New Testament.

The Jews held Moses in such an exalted state that one of their greatest Rabbi's (Maimonides from the 12th century) held Moses as so great that he "comprehended more of God than any man in the past or future ever comprehended or will comprehend

He was faithful in his entire house [Israel], as a servant (3:5). As a servant in God's house, Moses testified to what would be spoken after through Christ (3:5b). For all his greatness and faithfulness, Moses was a faithful servant in all his house (emphasis mine). That means he was a part of the house of Israel.

3. But Jesus is faithful over his own house (3:6a, emphasis mine). Jesus is in charge of God's house. Jesus fulfilled everything taught in the Law and the tabernacle. Romans 10:4 declare that, "For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

When Jesus died on the cross, He said: It is finished (Jn. 19:30). What was finished? God's plan of salvation that was only pictured in the sacrifices established through Moses. Because of Christ's death on the cross, we don't have to do anything to earn salvation because the work of salvation is finished. It was all done by Jesus on the cross. (Rom. 6:23a). Therefore...

III Our Faithfulness is to Jesus (3:6b-c).

1. How can you know if you are really a part of God's house, or family? There are two ways. First, we'll hold fast our confidence in Christ (3:6b). This doesn't mean if we hold on until the end we will be saved. We cannot keep ourselves saved any more than we can save ourselves. Holding on to our confidence in Christ means we continue following His teachings as proof we are saved. Jesus expressed this fact in John 8:31, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed;

2. This confidence includes holding on to our hope in Christ (3:6c). This is the real test of whether or not we are true believers because true Christians persevere. John writes about some who claimed to be true believers, but they were not of us... let's read that verse in I John (2:19) There is an old saying: A faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first.

Conclusion:

Jesus keeps those who truly belong to Him. Jesus has never lost, and will never lose, anyone who is truly a member of His household (Jn. 10:29).