JESUS AND MOSES

**DATE: 10/2/2013 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 3:2-6**

**INTRODUCTION**

One of the great themes of Hebrews is the Superiority of Jesus Christ

The word ***“better”*** is one of several significant words found in this book

It is a word that describes that which is Best, Nobler, and Superior

One of the objectives of the Book of Hebrews is to show that Jesus is …

- Mightier than the mightiest

- Greater than the greatest

- Higher than the highest

- Holier than the holiest

Jesus is in all Things and in all Ways; Superior

One of the ways this Book expresses the Superiority of Jesus is by showing how He is Better than Others

The book begins by showing that Jesus is Better than the Prophets

Then it shows how He is Better than the Angels

Now in chapter 3 the book shows that He is Better than Moses

To understand why it was important to show that Jesus was better than Moses …

We must understand how the Jewish people felt about Moses

He was …

- Revered as the greatest of all Hebrews

- Esteemed the greatest man in their history

- He had led the children of Israel out of Egypt / Bondage

- By him the Law of God had been given

- He was the writer of the Pentateuch (the 1st 5 books of the OT) which was the sacred record of their history

It’s easy to understand why he was so esteemed among the Jewish people

To them, no greater man ever lived

He, as much as anyone, portrayed Who and What the Jewish people were as a people

To the Jewish readers of the letter of Hebrews, this was a very important section of the letter

It declared that Jesus was Better, Greater, and more Superior then Moses

The writer of Hebrews achieves his objective of showing the Superiority of Jesus over Moses by Comparing them

Let’s consider the Comparisons that are given and see how Jesus is Better than Moses

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, notice -

**I. HOW THEY ARE “PERSONIFIED”**

Before the writer shows how Jesus and Moses were Different,

He begins by showing how Jesus and Moses were Similar

When I speak of something Personified, I’m talking about something that is a Perfect Example

He presents them both as being a person that was *Faithful*

**v. 2** says - ***“Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house”***

Again in **v. 5** we read - ***“And Moses verily was faithful in all His house”***

**v.5** is a quote from **Numbers 12:7** - ***“My servant Moses…who is faithful in all Mine house”***

The one area in which both Jesus and Moses were similar is their *faithfulness*

The word ***“faithful”***, as used here, means *trustworthy*

Can you be considered a *trustworthy* Christian?

Let’s see …

- Can your church depend on you to do what God has called and commanded you to do?

- Can your church depend on you to be in your place on the Lord’s Day?

- Can they depend on you to pray both privately and publicly?

- Can your church depend on you to tithe and give as the Lord has commanded?

If you’re in Ministry, are you trustworthy?

- Can your Church, those you minister to, trust that each week you will come prepared to meet their needs?

- Will you have walked with the Lord thru-out the week?

- As a preacher, I have to include myself and ask, when I preach God’s Word, am I faithful to God’s Word?

When it came to Jesus and Moses, they were both *trustworthy*

They were ***“faithful”***

Let’s try to understand what it means to be ***“faithful”***

Notice with me how Jesus and Moses were ***“faithful”***

Their faithfulness was -

**A. A Trust that was ‘Appointed’**

When I speak of **Trust** …

I’m talking about the position of somebody who is expected by others to behave responsibly & honorably

To **Appoint** – is to select a person for an official position or to do a job

**v. 2** speaks of how Jesus was ***“faithful to Him that appointed Him”***

Both Jesus and Moses had been given a Divine Appointment

Appointed to do what?

They both had been given a ***work*** to do in their life by God

Paul described the ***work*** that God had given him to do in **I Thessalonians 2:4 –** ***“But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel”***

Also in **I Timothy 1:11** Paul said - ***“According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust”***

Paul saw the work of spreading and sharing the gospel with the lost as a work he had been given to do

On another occasion Paul said **in I Timothy 1:12 -** ***“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry”***

Paul said that his call to be a preacher was because God considered him *trustworthy* (faithful)

There is the work that God gives His people

As Christians we all have received a Divine Appointment

It’s a trust that has been given us

- Jesus was given a work to do

- Moses was given a work to do

- We have been given a work to do!

**A Trust that was ‘Appointed’**

Secondly, their faithfulness involved -

**B. A Trust that was ‘Accomplished’**

To speak of Jesus and Moses as being ***“faithful”*** …

Is to say they not only had been Given a work to do …

But they Did what God had called them to do

They carried out the will of God for their life

They Accomplished that which had been entrusted to them

As we saw in our last study, **v. 1** declares that Jesus is ***“the Apostle”***

He is the *“sent One”*

He was sent to this earth to become man’s Redeemer and Saviour

Our Salvation is a Testimony that Jesus fulfilled that for which He was sent

Moses was called by God to deliver His people from bondage

God said to Moses in **Exodus 3:10 -** ***“I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people the children of Israel out of Egypt”***

Moses fulfilled that call

To say that any of us is ***“faithful”*** is to say that we are doing what God has called us to do

It is only when we do what God has given us to do that we can be called ***“faithful”*** or *trustworthy*

God has something for each Christian to do

To that call we should be ***“faithful”***

**Quote:** Theodore Roosevelt said, *“It is better to be faithful than to be famous”*

I agree

A Trust that is both, **Appointed** and **Accomplished**

Secondly, we not only see how Jesus and Moses were our Perfect Example …

**“PERSONIFIED”**

But also how -

**II. HOW THEY ARE “GLORIFIED”**

We read in **v. 3a -** ***“For this Man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses”***

The word ***“glory”*** speaks of the Dignity and Honor that is bestowed upon someone

Both Jesus and Moses are held in the highest esteem

Moses is greatly esteemed by the Jewish people and Jesus by Christians

But this is where the writer begins to show the Differences between Jesus and Moses

Moses was greatly honored, but Jesus the Greatest

Notice with me a couple of things about how Jesus and Moses were Glorified

First, the Glory they receive is -

**A. An ‘Entitled’ Glory**

The words ***“counted worthy”*** in **v. 3** are actually one word that means *deemed entitled* or *fit for*

Both Jesus and Moses were *Entitled* to the Dignity and Honor that they got

Both Jesus and Moses were ***“counted worthy”***

They faithfully obeyed God’s will for their life and carried out their divine appointment

The greatest words that anyone will ever hear are found in **Matthew 25:21** –

***“Well done, thou good and faithful servant”***

Whereas both were ***“counted worthy”*** …

… Jesus was Better than Moses

The glory that the writer of Hebrews speaks of is not only an ‘**Entitled’ Glory**

But it is also -

**B. An ‘Exceeding’ Glory**

**v.3a** said - ***“For this Man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses”***

The Jewish people held Moses in the highest esteem,

But the writer wants them to understand that Jesus is superior to Moses in that He was counted more worthy than Moses

You will notice that the dominant word in **vs. 2-6** is ***“house”***

The word is found 7 x’s in these **5 vs.**

The word comes from a word that means *household*

It is used to speak of *people* rather than a building

It speaks of the people in a house, not the house itself

**v. 2** says that ***“Moses was faithful in all his house”***

The house or household of Moses being spoken of is the Nation of Israel

Moses as the head of his household, the Jewish people,

Was ***“counted worthy”*** of the honor and glory he received because he was faithful and trustworthy to his house

- He had been given God’s Law that contained the truths, commandments, requirements, and promises of God to His people

- Moses had been faithful in dispensing to them what God had entrusted him with

- As well, he led the children of Israel as God had instructed him

He was faithful to his house in that he led God’s people in the will of God

For this he was ***“counted worthy”***

However, Jesus was counted more worthy in that He was the actual builder of the house

We read in **vs. 3b, 4 -** ***“inasmuch as He who builded the house hath more honor than the house” “For every house is builded by some man; but He that built all things is God”***

Moses was the leader of an earthly household

(the Jewish people)

But Jesus was the builder of a heavenly household

(the Church)

The architect always receives more honor than the building he designs and builds

**Ill.** St. Paul’s Cathedral in London is a magnificent building, but it stands as a testimony to Sir Christopher Wren, its architect

Moses was the Leader, but Jesus was the Builder!

Therefore, He is ***“counted worthy of more glory than Moses”***

One of the Great Truths that the writer makes clear is the deity of Jesus Christ

Once again, he points to His deity

Notice carefully the words in the latter part of **v. 4 –**

***“but He that built all things is God”***

The writer, by stating that God is the builder of all things …

Is declaring here that Jesus is God!

If you are saved you are a part of the house Jesus built

We are a part of a heavenly household

The Bible says in **I Peter 2:5 –**

***“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house”***

We are part of a heavenly family

We are in this world, but not part of this world

The Jewish people are God’s earthly family

We are a spiritual family having experienced a heavenly birth

Lastly, notice with me not only how they are …

**“PERSONIFIED”**

**“GLORIFIED”**

But also -

**III. HOW THEY ARE “IDENTIFIED”**

A second reason Christ is superior to Moses is seen in how they are Identified

How are they identified?

First, we see -

**A. Moses the ‘Servant’**

**v. 5 -** ***“And Moses was verily faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after”***

You will notice that Moses is called *a servant*

An interesting word for ***“servant”*** is used here

The word used is a term for Dignity and Freedom; Not Servility …

…As is often conveyed by the word ***“servant”*** in the NT

This is the only time it is used in the NT and speaks of a high ranking servant

As emphasized, Moses was a faithful servant

In fact, in **Exodus chapters 35-40** there are 22 references to Moses faithfulness to God

The writer speaks of how Moses as a faithful servant was ***“a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after”***

Moses bore testimony of Christ Himself

The Law was a shadow of the good things that were to come as declared in **Hebrews 10:1**

***“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect”***

The Jewish people did not understand this, and still don’t,

But Moses in type and foreshadow was telling them about Jesus the coming Messiah

Moses was faithful in all he did as a *“servant”*

He is identified as a servant of the highest degree

**Moses the ‘Servant’**

But when we look at Jesus we see -

**B. Jesus the ‘Son’**

We read in **v. 6 -** ***“But Christ as a son over His own house, whose house we are”***

Moses (as great as he was) was but God’s *servant*

But on the other hand, Jesus was God’s *Son*

Moses was a servant in a house; Jesus is the Son over His house

There is quite a difference in being a servant of God and being the Son of God

Moses deserves the honor that has been bestowed upon him, but he is not the Son of God

Jesus is the Son; therefore He is superior to Moses

In **Hebrews 1:5** we read –

***“For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?”***

We could say here - *“For when unto Moses did He say at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?”*

Never! Moses is great but Jesus is Greatest!

Moses is worthy of some glory, but Jesus is worthy of All glory!

Jesus, being Who He is, is in a class all by Himself

**CONCLUSION**

In closing let me draw your attention to the final words of **v. 6 –**

***“whose house we are, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end”***

The writer is telling us that we are His house,

***“If”*** (note the word *“if”*) we hold fast unto the end

The writer is giving us one of the marks of those who really belong to His house

He is not telling us (as some have so often misinterpreted this statement) that we are saved if we hang on

First, let it be understood that we can’t save ourselves

Secondly, we can’t keep ourselves saved

If we can’t save ourselves we definitely can’t keep ourselves saved

The writer is simply stating that continuance is evidence or proof of reality

If one is in the house, they will stay in the house

Apparently there were many Jews who had fallen away

The writer is simply saying that the reason they fell away is because they were not in to start with

**I John 2:19** – ***“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us”***

The Bible is very clear in this matter

If you are *in* you will stay in

If not, it is evidence that you never got in

I have seen them come and go through the years

I have seen many come to the altar and make a profession of faith and afterwards the FBI could not find them

But on the other hand I have seen those who came that when they did so it made a glorious change in their life

They are still in. Why? They really got in!

We that are in; *are in*, because Jesus is Better!

**“PERSONIFIED” “GLORIFIED” “IDENTIFIED”**