

Jesus is Better than Moses - Hebrews 3:1-6
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

No figure in the Old Testament stands taller than Moses. Humanly, he is the most significant shaper of the culture, values, theology, and ethics for the average First Century Jewish person. In fact, his story completely shaped their identity. Jews knew themselves as the “people whom God rescued from slavery in Egypt with His mighty right arm.” They did not consider the ancient story, well, an ancient story. It was their story, what defined them. A Jewish person in the First Century lived under an oppressive regime in the Roman Empire, but they believed that the God who rescued them from Egypt would do it again. At the core of the Exodus story stands Moses, the baby rescued by his mama and sister by putting him in a basket placed in the Nile, then rescued and raised by Pharaoh’s daughter. Moses was their national hero, as he stood for them against power and demanded freedom. He was their rescuer and deliverer, the man who stood up as God sent plagues resulting in their release, and then walking them through the dried Red Sea as the Egyptian army bore down to kill them all. He is their teacher, the giver of the Law. In fact, Moses is the author of the most important literature for their lives, the Torah (first 5 books of the Bible). He was their truest priest. Although it was his brother Aaron who served as the first High Priest in Israel, Moses was the one who actually went to God on their behalf. And he was their greatest leader, leading them from Egypt, through the wilderness, and to the Promised Land. Yep, to be a Jew at the time of the New Testament was to be a person whose whole life and identity was shaped by Moses, no one was bigger.

No wonder Jewish people were so concerned when a whole bunch of their own people began to embrace Jesus as the True and Better Moses. It was one thing for these first followers to believe Jesus was the Messiah. But as these people believed in Jesus they exalted Him as better than Moses. As a result of their beliefs their culture and values began to change. Rather than hating their Gentile neighbors, Christians loved them, ate with them, went to church with them. Rather than seeking salvation through adherence to the Law, they started eating bacon. Instead of loyalty to Moses and the Jewish culture, Christians were loyal to Jesus and the church. Furthermore, they took it one step further, interpreting the life and writings of Moses as precursors to the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In the opinion of Jewish people at that time, to believe in Jesus was to reject Moses and lose their place in culture and identity. No wonder they put pressure of believing Jews to walk away from Jesus and come back to their Judaism.

Yet, the New Testament writers consistently show us that Moses’s ministry was pointing forward to a better rescuer, better teacher, better leader, better hero. And this was necessary because the ministry of Moses, while incredible, revealed a massive problem for both Jews and all people. Nobody, not even Moses could actually be justified by the Law. Moses failed and was kept from entering the Promised Land. And every Jewish king, priest, prophet, and leader who came after him sinned and failed as well. Moses work for God to rescue His people from slavery was incredible, worthy of honor. But it was not sufficient for our larger problem. We need rescue from slavery.

So the author of Hebrews reminds these Jewish Christians to keep their gaze on Jesus. He is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. Jesus was sent by God to be the revelation of God to us. He is the go-between standing before God on our behalf as the perfect Son who sacrificed Himself. Moses was faithful, but as a brick in the wall of

the house of God. Jesus was faithful as a Son who designed, created, and governs this house. Moses was a servant, but Jesus is the Divine Son.

Now, lets be honest. None of us are in danger of rejecting Jesus in order to go back to the culture of Moses. Yet, all of us are shaped by thinkers, teachers, philosophers, influencers. Our culture and values are shaped by these people. And just like the First Century Jewish believers, to believe in Jesus means that my identity, ethics, values, and culture are shaped by Jesus more than by Thomas Jefferson, Immanuel Kant, or Taylor Swift. And to truly walk with Jesus will mean a sort of noticeable break from those whose allegiance is to the strongest shapers of culture. No matter who the influencer is, Jesus is better, and worthy of your trust, your confidence, your hope.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ruth 1	Ruth 2	Ruth 3	Ruth 4	Philippian s 1	Philippian s 2	Philippian s 3

Reading from this past week: Hebrews3:1-6

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 3:7-19

Family Worship

Song - *Holy Forever*

<https://youtu.be/0O7HHH9yziU?si=opVIMd4NEnpcri3X>

Gospel Project

Unit: God Made a Promise

Story: Abraham and Isaac

Big Picture Question: Does God keep His promises?

Answer: Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

Scripture: Genesis 22

New City Catechism

Question 43: What are the sacraments and ordinances?

Answer: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Verse: Romans 6:4, Luke 22:19-20

Scripture

Hebrews 3:1-6

- Look through this passage and notice the different identity markers it gives to those who believe in Jesus? What does each one mean and why are they beautiful?
- What thinkers, philosophers, teachers, or influencers most shape your values, culture, and ethics?
- What are the ways the author shows us that Jesus is better than Moses? How does he also protect the value of Moses?
- How can we apply this text to our modern lives?

Prayer

*Pray for the people in your Community Group.

*Pray that we would follow Jesus over other influencers and leaders in our culture.