

Hebrews 3:1-6

Week Four

Study written by Holli Worthington

Day 1



Holy Spirit, help me to understand your word. Give me a soft heart to take it in and a willingness to live it out by God's grace and strength through Jesus.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2- Hebrews 3:1

1. How does the author of Hebrews describe the readers in verse 1?

2. What are the responsibilities and blessings of:

Being holy (belonging to God and set apart for him)-

Being brothers and sisters in Christ-

A heavenly calling shared by believers-

3. What are we called to do in verse 1?

Scholar's Note: "The word *consider* communicates the idea of meditation." ¹ It means to observe carefully, understand, focus on or fix one's mind upon. It expresses continuous observation and regard.



Jesus help my thoughts to turn to you often throughout the day. Help me to contemplate and reflect on who you are and what you have done for me. Let those thoughts form the way I see the world and my daily circumstances.

4. How is Jesus described in verse 1?

Scholar's Note: "Apostle simply means "sent one." Thus, the twelve apostles are those specifically commissioned by Jesus Christ and "sent" out on his behalf. In the same way, Christ is the apostle of the Father, the One sent from heaven with a specific message and mission to accomplish."²

"A high priest represents men before God and offers a sacrifice for their sins.

Moses was the only Old Testament figure to fulfill both of these functions, (apostle and high priest) and as such he pointed forward to Jesus, whom we proclaim as the apostle and high priest of our confession."³

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

- What was Jesus' message and mission?

John 3:2 "After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." (NLT)

John 3:17 “God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.” (NLT)

John 4:34 “Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”

John 5:36 “But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.” (NLT)

John 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

5. How did Jesus’ role as high priest tie in with his mission?



The author wants us to hold Jesus up before our mind’s eye in light of everything he has just written. And then he adds a few more things to think about—Jesus as apostle and high priest, who was faithful.

- ❖ What stands out to you from chapter 2 as to why Jesus is so worthy for us to set our minds on?

- ❖ What does it mean for your life that Jesus is the *sent One*?

- ❖ How does the truth that Jesus is your high priest—his sacrifice made it possible for you to have a relationship with God—impact you?

- ❖ In what practical ways can you *consider* (focus, think carefully, fix your mind on, meditate) Jesus?

- ❖ What dangers will grounding our thoughts about Jesus in God's word keep us from?

Day 3- Hebrews 3:2-4

6. In verse 2 how is Jesus compared to Moses?

Critical Connection: Read the following passages and answer the questions:

- What was Moses called by God to do?

Exodus 3:4, 7-8, 10 “⁴When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied...⁷ Then the LORD told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live... ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

- What was unique about Moses' role as prophet?

Numbers 12:6-8 ⁶ And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

-How did Moses act as priest for the Israelites?

Deuteronomy 9:18-19 ¹⁸ Then, as before, I threw myself down before the LORD for forty days and nights. I ate no bread and drank no water because of the great sin you had committed by doing what the LORD hated, provoking him to anger. ¹⁹ I feared that the furious anger of the LORD, which turned him against you, would drive him to destroy you. But again he listened to me.”

-Why was Moses so revered among the Jews?

Deuteronomy 34:10-12 ¹⁰ “There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹ The LORD sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and all his servants, and his entire land. ¹² With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel.”

Scholar’s Note: Moses was the most highly honored prophet and leader in Judaism. “According to one early [Jewish] tradition, Moses was superior to the angels, having higher rank and privilege than the ministering angels.”⁴ This is why the author is taking great pains to remind his readers of the superiority of Jesus over Moses.

7. Remember, the recipients of this letter were in danger of slipping back into Judaism because of the pressure and persecution they were facing as Christians. What then is the author asserting in verse 3?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

-In the analogy in verse 3b, if Moses is the house and Jesus is the builder of the house, what does the house represent?

Eph.2:19-22 ¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. " (NLT)

Picture and Ponder: "People today tend not to take the church very seriously. We are rugged individualists and think we can go it alone. But the corporate community of saints is the household of God. If this does not transform our view of the church, then nothing will. We see that the church is not a human institution but a divine building which God erects and in which God himself dwells. To be part of the church is to have historical roots in the people of God and spiritual connectedness to others now, in past ages, and in generations to come." ⁵



When you think of Jesus as the builder of your church, in what ways does that change your perspective on church and your involvement?

8. Not only did God, through Jesus, build his house, what else did he do according to verse 4?

Day 4- Hebrews 3:5

9. How is Moses described in verse 5a?

Scholar's Note: The word for "servant" (therapon) is found only here in the NT. It denotes an honored servant, one who is far above a slave but still a servant."⁶

10. What was the purpose of Moses' faithful ministry according to 5b?

Critical Connection: Read the following passages and answer the question:

-What was Moses' ministry pointing to?

Deuteronomy 18:15 ¹⁵ "Moses continued, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him." (NLT)

Luke 24:25-27 ²⁵ "And he [Jesus] said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

Romans 3:21 ²¹ "But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago." (NLT)



Moses was God's faithful servant and his whole ministry pointed to Jesus in a way that only God could ordain. Grace, deliverance, redemption, sacrifice, provision, and salvation are all pictured in Moses' life as God's servant.

Reflect on the following thoughts:

- ❖ Can you be described as a faithful servant?
- ❖ What things keep you from serving God?
- ❖ What kind of picture of Jesus does your life make?
- ❖ Spend some time in prayer asking for the desire to serve God faithfully with the energy he provides. (Col.1:29)

Day 5- Hebrews 3:6

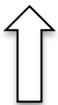
11. Why is Jesus greater than Moses according to verses 5-6?

12. Jesus is a _____ and Moses is a _____

13. What is the evidence that we indeed belong to God's house according to verse 6?

14. What is the confidence that we hold on to?

Picture and Ponder: “Hebrews, perhaps more than any other New Testament book, affirms the sufficiency of Christ and his work for our salvation. Nevertheless, warnings against failing to persevere in the faith appear throughout the book. This verse introduces that major theme in Hebrews. The author of Hebrews and the rest of Scripture teach that only those who persevere in faith will be saved, and that all who have genuine faith will persevere... The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints does not mean we enter God's kingdom by faith and stay in God's kingdom by works. Instead, it means we enter God's kingdom by a faith that will persevere and never fail. By faith, we confidently trust that Christ's righteousness belongs to us. He is our only boast. He is our unfailing hope.”⁷



Jesus you are my only hope, and my confidence is in you alone to hold me and keep me in you. Help me to persevere in faith and be courageous in living out the life you died to give me.

For Discussion: How can you manage the tension between being secure in your salvation and warnings about failing to persevere in the faith?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 42). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

² Ibid. (p. 43)

³ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 1106-1108). Kindle Edition.

⁴ Hughes, R. Kent. Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word) (Kindle Locations 1423-1424). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 1160-1164). Kindle Edition.

⁶ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁷ Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 46). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

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