

Study Jesus for faithfulness!

(Hebrews 3:1–6)

Human models, past and present, are good to follow, if they point us to Jesus. But they are no replacement for Jesus, not even Moses who in his time was most humble, an incomparable prophet, and a pattern of the coming Messiah. Instead of him (or others) believers should “fix their thoughts on Jesus” or “consider Jesus”. Keeping your eyes on Jesus is needed to follow Him. The author of Hebrews explains why.

I. *Study Jesus for faithfulness because of His task for you (3:1–2).*

1. *His task is defined in the titles ‘apostle’ and ‘high priest’.*

He is the ultimate mediator: sent by God to speak with man (=apostle, cf. 1:1–3a), perfect man representing man to God (=priest).

2. *His task is directed to true believers.*

They are “holy” (cf. 2:11), “brothers” (cf. 2:11–17), “sharers in the heavenly calling” (cf. 2:10), and confessors of Jesus (cf. Romans 10:9).

3. *His task was accomplished with faithfulness (3:2).*

He accomplished faithfully what the Father sent Him to do.

He was faithful like Moses (cf. Numbers 12:17) in God’s house, i.e., the people of God. Moses spoke for God to the people and interceded for the people before God. But the status of Jesus demands greater attention to His faithfulness than that of Moses.

II. *Study Jesus for faithfulness because of His glory toward you (3:3–6a).*

1. *His glory is superior to Moses in His status as builder of God’s house, not just part or “in” God’s house (3:3–4).*

a. Moses is not the house, but is part of that house.

b. Jesus, not Moses, “built” the house as “architect” and “constructor.”

c. The existence of a house argues for a builder. God made everything and is thus not like any other builder. Since Jesus is the builder of God’s house, He must also be God (cf. 1:2). Thus Jesus is worthy of more honor than Moses.

2. *His glory is superior to Moses in His status as Son over God’s house, not just a servant in the house (3:5–6).*

a. Moses functioned as an honored servant in God’s house, but Christ is the Son over God’s house. Thereby Christ had greater status and His faithfulness demands greater attention.

b. Moses “testified to what would be said in the future”, that is, he foreshadowed the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Cf. Deuteronomy 18:15; John 3:14 ; 6:31–35.

c. Believers today have Christ, the reality which cast the shadow which was the ministry of Moses. Moses as well saw the glory of God and reflected that glory, but Jesus is “the radiance of God’s glory” (Hebrews 1:3). Thus Jesus is more important to consider.

III. *Study Jesus for faithfulness because of His requirement of you (3:6b).*

1. *True believers have this special status with God.*

They belong to the people of God (His house), though we observe only the profession of faith. Believers must examine themselves and seek proof that they truly believe.

2. *Perseverance in the faith reveals the heart and true belief.*

Literally, “if we hold fast the confidence and the boast of the hope.” The “hope” is the final consummation of salvation, when believers are changed into sinless, glorious beings in the presence of Jesus. In this believers may now glory or boast. They live now in a way showing their confidence in that hope. Therefore, they fearlessly confess Christ and maintain that joyful hope.

Jesus warned some of self-deception, that they thought they believed, but did not (Matthew 7:20–23). He also taught that some could believe for a while, but without the word really having taken root (Luke 8:1–15, esp. v.13). Avoid these dangers by focusing on Jesus to the point that you can say with Peter there is none other to whom we can go (John 6:68–69).

Study Jesus, fix your thoughts on Him, rather than on any other, because He is better than any other as Mediator, in His status, and in assuring that you are truly part of God’s people.

For further reflection:

- What temptations exist to look to someone or something other than Jesus as a way to know God or have access to God?
- Following good examples is proper. How can you detect when it has become unhealthy and is directing away from Jesus?
- Have you ever struggled with doubts concerning your salvation? Why/why not? If not, should there be times of doubt? If so, what would help you have greater assurance? How do trials help?