

Hope Christian Church  
D. Todd Cravens  
18 February 2018

Sermon Series: *Hebrews: The Supremacy of Christ*



## Consider Jesus: He Is Greater Than Moses

Whose Your Hero?

### **Hebrews 2:18 - 3:6a (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. <sup>1</sup> Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup> who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup> Now Moses

was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. ~~And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.~~

## Introduction

Whose your hero? We love heroes. Marvel Comics and DC Comics are making millions and millions of dollars on movie versions of their comic book super heroes. Apparently we love heroes and you might say we need heroes.

When you were little what hero did you dressed up as? We all did this, didn't we?

We all had heroes when we were young. We acted like them, we talked like them, we walked like them. For a while it may have been mom or dad. Then it might have been Superman, Batman, or Wonder-woman.



But what happened to all that admiration? Did it just vanish? Or was it transformed?

Whose your hero today? It may no longer be Batman, but he might wear the number 12 or on his jersey or is it the number 7... Cristiano Ronaldo? Sometimes it's easier to worship athletes whom we can see than it is to worship God whom we can't see.

We're wired to worship. It's what we're built for. We were created to worship someone greater than ourselves. It may be Tom Brady, or Cristiano Ronaldo, or LeBron James, or Drake, or Kenye West, or Justin Bieber or Jane Eyre, or Wonder Woman, or Beyonce, or Oprah, or Taylor Swift, or Katy Perry, or Rihanna, or someone else? Whom do you truly admire?

## Whose Your Hero Today?

If I were to ask you, who is your hero, how would you answer? Answer truthfully. Imagine it's not a Sunday and you're not sitting in church. Imagine it's Wednesday morning on the train ride into town and I'm sitting next to you and I lean over and say,

"Excuse me, but I'm curious, who is your hero?"

Who would it be? Do you have personal heroes, whom you know and are still living? Do you have professional heroes? Do you have historical heroes? Honestly, I don't think that on a Wednesday morning on the way to work if you were to ask me that question that I would answer that Jesus is my hero. Why? Because he seems too perfect. He was God and doing what is right just came natural to him so I can't really identify with that.

But this is not true. Yes, he is divine, but he is also fully human. He had a fully human nature just like yours and mine. And he experienced everything we experience. The last verse of chapter 2 tells us that he suffered through every temptation and therefore he can help us when we are being tempted.

Therefore, because of that fact, he ought to be your hero. Consider making Jesus your hero today. He ought to be the most respected, revered, and admired man in your life. You ought to worship him because he is the greatest man who ever lived. Don't think of him as a distant demigod who never struggled to do the right thing. He struggled to do the right thing all the time. He suffered daily to be obedient to his Father who sent him. Does he have your deepest admiration? Do you truly worship him? Consider him, this morning. This is what the author of Hebrews is inviting you to do. He is inviting you to **consider Jesus**.

**Main idea:** Because he can help you, consider Jesus, who speaks for God as God, who alone is the way to God, and who is more glorious than Moses as the Son and builder of God's house.

## The Only Imperative

In these first six verses of chapter three, there is only one imperative and it is "**Consider Jesus**."

Hebrews 3:1 (ESV)

*Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,*

This is our aim this morning. We want to consider Jesus. However, before we consider Jesus, we need to consider ourselves.

## Consider

The word "consider" (κατανοέω *katanoēō*), means "to think about very carefully,"<sup>1</sup> and "to direct one's whole mind to an object; to immerse oneself in it; to apprehend it in its whole compass."<sup>2</sup> What the author of Hebrews is saying is that we need to put down our phones, forget about lunch, and put on your thinking cap. He is calling us to focus on what God is

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<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 349.

<sup>2</sup> Johannes Behm and Ernst Würthwein, "Νοέω, Νοῦς, Νόημα, Ἀνόητος, Ἄνοια, Δυσνόητος, Διάνοια, Διανόημα, Ἐννοια, Εὐνοέω, Εὐνοια, Κατανοέω, Μετανοέω, Μετάνοια, Ἀμετανόητος, Προνοέω, Πρόνοια, Ὑπονοέω, Ὑπόνοια, Νουθετέω, Νουθεσία," ed. Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964–), 973.

saying to us through him. Consider. Ponder. Mentally hold onto this notion. Meditate on this. Upon what should we meditate?

## Consider Yourself

First, he invites us to consider who we are, because he describes those who consider Jesus as "*holy brothers who share in a heavenly calling.*"

### Hebrews 3:1 (ESV)

*Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,*

The '**therefore**,' points us back to the fact that Jesus is human just like us. He shares in flesh and blood because we share in flesh and blood (see 2:14). Jesus had to become human in order to save humans. He does not help angels, but he does help the offspring of Abraham. And we are the offspring of Abraham if we have the faith of Abraham. Faith in what?

Faith in Jesus who offered himself as a willing sacrifice on our behalf. Faith in Jesus as a substitutionary, propitiating sacrifice that bore the just wrath of God against my sins and then turned God's anger at me, a wicked sinner, into favor toward me as saved son. Also, faith in the fact that Jesus as a man has been tempted in every way that I am and therefore, through his power, he is able to help me overcome temptation and sin.

## Holy Brothers Who Share in a Heavenly Calling

This is why he calls the Hebrews to whom he is writing, and by extension us who are their spiritual descendants, **holy brothers who share in a heavenly calling**. The term translated "*brothers*" (ἀδελφοί) means "fellow Christians and refers to both male and female members of the community."<sup>3</sup>

No Christian is holy by his own efforts. Christians are holy because of the work of Jesus. I am not holy because I have perfectly obeyed God. I am holy because I am trusting in Jesus who did perfectly obey God. I am holy because he has called me to be holy and I have listened to that call. I am holy not because of my own sinless perfection, but because of my heavenward direction. The Christian life is not about perfection but direction. Jesus calls to all of his disciples and he says, "*Follow me.*" And that is what we do. It does not mean we do it perfectly. It does not mean that we then never get distracted by the sinful things we see along the way and then trip and fall. It means that when he says, "Todd, don't look over there. Keep your eyes on me," that I get up and I say, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have looked away." I then reach out for his gracious hand that is extended toward me and I take hold of it and I get up

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<sup>3</sup> Paul Ellingworth, [\*The Epistle to the Hebrews: A Commentary on the Greek Text\*](#), New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1993), 197.

and keep following him. He continually calls to us to keep us following him. This calling is not about perfection, it is about direction.

## He Calls From Heaven To Heaven

How do you know you are a Christian? Being a Christian means being a follower of Jesus. You know you are a Christian if you are following him. Are you following him? **He calls us from heaven to heaven. He calls us from holiness to holiness.** Did you follow him well this week? Did you fail to follow him? Think back over the past week. Was there a moment that now comes to mind when you did not follow him?

Some situation presented itself to you and you thought, "I should not do that," or "I know right now I should do this," and you chose to do the opposite? In that moment, it was the voice of Jesus through his Spirit within you calling you to do what was right and to keep you from doing what was wrong. In that moment, did you stop and say, "Jesus, I'm sorry for doing what I knew I should not do. Will you please forgive me?" Or "Jesus, I'm sorry I disobeyed you and chose not to do what I knew I should have done. Will you please forgive me?"

If some sin has now come to mind for which you have not yet confessed and asked forgiveness, then do it now. The Christian life is not about perfection, it is about direction. Are you continuing to follow him? Are you continually moving closer to him? If you're not moving nearer to him then you are drifting away from him. Don't drift away. Keep following and fighting the good fight of faith. Do you hear it brothers and sisters, the calling from heaven beckoning us to heaven? He who is holy is calling us to be holy like he is holy. Listen and obey. Consider yourself. Consider your calling. Now let's consider Jesus.

## Consider Jesus: Who Is Greater Than Moses

The author is writing to Hebrews. **He is writing to Hebrews whose greatest historic hero was Moses.** The Hebrews went from being homeless, oppressed slaves to being one of the most feared nations on the planet under the leadership of Moses. The homeless Hebrews became the nation of Israel under the leadership of Moses. Moses was the hero of all Israel. Moses set the gold standard of prophetic leadership. Moses led the people of Israel out of slavery and into freedom. He led them from no land into the Promised Land. Moses was "for later Judaism the most important figure in salvation history."<sup>4</sup> Egypt was destroyed under his leadership. The mightiest army of the known world was decimated while Moses was in command. The law was given through Moses. God spoke from heaven to the whole nation while Moses was leading. God spoke personally to Moses almost every day. There was no one like Moses. God said this about him,

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<sup>4</sup> Paul Ellingworth, [The Epistle to the Hebrews: A Commentary on the Greek Text](#), New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1993), 194.

### Numbers 12:6-8 (ESV)

*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."*

Moses was revered in Israel. There was no one like him. He wrote the first five books of the Bible. He was the greatest theologian and the greatest historian of the Old Testament. He was renowned among greatest of the great in Israel. Little Israelite kids ran around with Moses t-shirts on, carrying a staff bigger than themselves, and hitting rocks expecting water to come shooting out. Moses was the greatest hero of every little holy Hebrew. Moses was worshiped as the greatest prophet ever produced in Israel and yet the author of Hebrews will now offer four reasons why Jesus is far greater than Moses.

### The Supremacy of Christ

Once again we are reminded what this letter is about. THE main point of this whole letter is to uphold the supremacy of Jesus about all others competitors. Jesus is superior to the Old Testaments prophets. He is superior to angels. Now, he will argue, Jesus is superior to Moses.



The author wants us to **consider three ways** in which Jesus is greater to Moses. First, Jesus is a greater apostle and high priest. Second, Jesus is in a greater position than Moses. And third, Jesus is a greater person than Moses.

### Consider Jesus as a Greater Apostle and High Priest Than Moses

The first way in which Jesus is greater than Moses is that he is a greater **apostle and high priest**.

#### Hebrews 3:1 (ESV)

*...consider Jesus, the **apostle and high priest** of our confession,*

This is the only place in the New Testament where Jesus is referred to as an apostle and the combination of these two terms only appear here. The term '**apostle**' generally means "one who fulfills the role of being a special messenger."<sup>5</sup> In other words, as an apostle, Jesus is God's unique spokesman. In this sense, Jesus and Moses are similar. Moses, too, was God's special messenger. However, this term is then combined with **high priest**.

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<sup>5</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 541.

This is a role in which Moses did not serve. Aaron and his sons served as priests, but Moses did not serve in this capacity. However, Jesus is greater than Moses because he served God as both his special messenger and his unique role as high priest. Jesus is both the spokesman for God and the one who bears the sins for the people. **Jesus is the way to hear from God and he is the way to God.** Jesus is the Word of God and the way to God. In this way, he is greater than Moses.

Consider this.

## Consider Jesus in a Greater Position Than Moses

The second way we are to consider that Jesus is greater than Moses is his **position**.

### Hebrews 3:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)

In this analogy, Jesus is worthy of more glory and honor than Moses because Jesus is the **builder** of the house and Moses is the **house** itself.

You may see the most beautiful house in the world and stand gazing in awe of it, but even more amazing is the person who designed and built the house. The intelligence and power behind what has been built is worthy of more glory and honor than the inanimate thing itself.



If Moses is one who you esteem highly because of his accomplishments, then you should esteem even more highly the one who gave Moses his ability and power to do what he did. If Moses is worthy of glory and honor—and he is—then Jesus is worthy of greater glory and honor because Moses was built by Jesus. Moses was created by Jesus.

The author of Hebrews here slips in a little parenthetical phrase which points to the divinity of this man Jesus whom we are considering. Verse four says, “Every house is built by someone, and the builder of all things is God.” The implication is clear. Moses did not build himself. Moses did not create himself. Moses was created by God, who is the builder of all things, and Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder is worthy of more glory than the building.

Premise 1: Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, because builders are more glorious than buildings.

Premise 2: Jesus is the builder, who built Moses.

Premise 3: God is the builder of all things.

Conclusion: Therefore, Jesus is God.

Since Jesus is God he is worthy of far more glory than Moses. Jesus is in a position in which Moses never stood. Jesus is the more glorious builder, worthy of more honor and more glory than the thing he built. Jesus is great than Moses.

Consider this.

## Consider Jesus as a Greater Person Than Moses

The way we are to consider that Jesus is great than Moses is his **person**.

### Hebrews 3:5-6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son.

The person of Moses was a servant. The person of Christ is the Son. Sonship is greater than servanthood. The Son is the overseer and owner of the house, while the servant obeys his owner's commands. Moses was faithful **in** God's house, while the Son is faithful **over** God's house.

Moses faithfully *served* God's house, while the Son faithfully *saved* God's house. The Son supports the house out of his wealth and riches, while the servant, having no riches of his own, stewards the riches of the Son. The Son determines the direction of the house, while the servant obeys his master's commands. The Son is greater than the servant.

## A Servant Testifying to Things To Be Spoken Later

The author draws out attention to one of Moses's particular roles as a servant. Moses was a faithful servant "**testifying to the things that were to be spoken later.**" This means that Moses taught that someone *later* on would speak things that were more important than what he was saying. What Moses said was important, but part of what he said was that there would be another who would come after him, later on, whose words would be more important than his own words. Part of Moses' calling as a servant was to point people to the Son who would come after him. Moses faithfully did this.

**Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)**

*"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen"*

In saying this, Moses was pointing to the Son. The Son, who would come from "**among your brothers.**" Remember that Jesus was from the Jewish family. He was "*not ashamed to call them brothers*" (Heb. 2:11-12). They were **children**<sup>6</sup> of one family. Moses said the one who would come after him would be "**from your brothers.**" He was pointing to Jesus.

This is most certainly one of the passages that Jesus had in mind when he said, "*Moses wrote about me*" (Jn. 5:46). Moses was not the greatest prophet, for he himself prophetically pointed to another greater than himself. He was pointing to Jesus.

Why did Moses say this? Because this is what God had said to him.

**Deuteronomy 18:18-19 (ESV)**

*"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him."*

Jesus spoke God's words without fail. Jesus had God's words in his mouth in a way that Moses did not. To ignore the words of Jesus is to ignore the words of God himself.

**John 7:16 (ESV)**

*So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me."*

**John 8:26 (ESV)**

*"He who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."*

**John 8:28 (ESV)**

*So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me."*

**John 12:49 (ESV)**

*"For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak."*

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<sup>6</sup> Heb. 2:13-14.

Jesus never failed to speak what God the Father commanded him to speak. His words were God's words. Moses is honored by the author of Hebrews. It is said that he was "faithful in all of God's house" (3:2, 5), which is a quote of Numbers 12:7 where God so describes him.

And yet, we cannot fail to remember that there was one time when Moses did not speak what God commanded him. When the people needed water, God told him to speak to the rock and tell it to give water,<sup>7</sup> but Moses did not do this. Instead, he struck the rock with his staff<sup>8</sup> because he was frustrated and angry at the stubbornness of the rebellious people. For this reason Moses was not allowed to enter into the Promised Land.

Moses was a faithful servant, but Jesus was a more faithful Son. Moses was faithful **in** God's house as a servant, but Jesus is faithful **over** God's house as a Son. Sonship is greater than servanthood. Being a servant of God is good, but being the Son of God is even greater.

Consider this.

## Conclusion

As we conclude. Consider what you have heard. Ponder the fact that Jesus is fully human. He lived his life in perfect faithfulness to God who appointed him. He accomplished all his Father's will. Jesus did everything his Father sent him to do. Consider that he offers himself to you to help you do the same. Mediate on the fact that he did not fail. He never failed during all the days of his incarnation and he most certainly cannot fail now that he has been exalted to the right hand of God the Father. He is greater than Moses in every regard.

Consider that Jesus is God's final spokesman. If you want to hear the voice of God, you have only to pick up your Bible and read. Jesus never failed to speak God's word to us. Jesus is God's greatest apostle. And his is God's greatest high priest. He willingly offered his own body to atone for our sins. *Jesus is the word of God and the way to God.* No one gets to God through Moses or Mohammed, but you will safely and happily get to God and enjoy his kingdom if you go to him through Jesus. Jesus is greater than Moses or Mohammad or Ronaldo or Tom Brady. It's laughable to even make that comparison.

Can you look to Jesus as your hero? Can you not admire him above all other men?

Consider Jesus. He is greater than Moses. He is greater than all.

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<sup>7</sup> Num. 20:8.

<sup>8</sup> Num. 20:11.