

JESUS *is Better* THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Week Five: Jesus is Superior to Moses

Introduction

Jesus is superior since he built the house, while Moses simply served in the house. Beware of an unbelieving heart that provokes God.

Digging Deeper

Read Hebrews 3:7–11

This passage occurs in the midst of a chapter in which the author is encouraging his readers to be faithful to Christ. One way that we can be faithful to Christ is to believe and obey the revealed Word of God. Here in Heb. 3:7–11 the author appeals to this principle as he quotes a passage from the Word of God in the Old Testament, Ps. 95:7b–11.

This Psalm was written by David; however, wanting to emphasize the divine nature of the Bible, the author writes, “As the Holy Spirit says” (Heb. 3:7). Note that this Psalm was likely composed to be used during the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebration designed to remind the people of God’s provision for them during their wilderness wanderings, and his eventual deliverance of Israel into the Promised Land. Indeed, this Psalm was meant to spur the Jews on to covenant faithfulness in light of the numerous heartaches that their forefathers experienced because of their unbelief.

Historically speaking, Israel had grumbled during the exodus event (cf. Ex. 17:1–17; Num. 13:26; 20:1–13). This lack of faith resulted in the death of every adult over the age of twenty (with the exception of Joshua and Caleb) during forty years of wandering in the Sinai Peninsula (cf. Num. 14:29–30). The message, then, in this passage is clear: to have faith in God and his revelation results in life; to dis-believe in God and his Word results in death.

Bible Study Questions

Read Hebrews 3:1-13

1. Read 3:1-6

What does it mean to “consider” Jesus?

What does it mean when it states in verse 6 that “...we are God’s house...”?

What is the main purpose of a house? (It is a dwelling place!)

2. Read 3:7-11

a). Read also Exodus 15:22-27; 16:2-3, 7, 12; 17:2-7

What did Moses name the place in 17:7? Now read Psalm 95:8-11. In our verse 8 the words “rebellion” and “testing” are used. This is the equivalent of Meribah and Massah. What does this tell us about our response of unbelief to God’s promises?

b). Read Numbers 13:30-14:3, 14:10-12, 18-23

The nation was promised to enter God’s rest but some failed to experience it because of unbelief. Why then is it that we fail to experience God’s rest?

3. Read 3:12-13

What are these verses teaching us about the responsibility of the local church?

Name at least three ways to practically encourage each other involving the church.

Name at least three ways we can be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

How does our practical encouragement negate sin’s hardening?

Group Application Questions

1. Why do we not believe in God, despite his goodness and faithful to us? Has unbelief in God’s promises ever produced positive results in your life?
2. What is the difference between God’s discipline of believers and God’s punishment of unbelievers?
3. What can we learn from our spiritual forefathers? How has knowledge of church history aided in your own sanctification?

Prayer

Have someone else pray for your group for the following areas:

1. Praise God that he is the Father of mercy and the God of all comfort.
2. Confess some ways that your group is prone to be selfish during affliction instead of caring for one another.
3. Thank God for a specific way he has comforted you through another believer in your group.
4. Ask God to help you love one another well according to the way God has loved us in Jesus.

*Digging Deeper and Group Application Questions were adapted from Richland Hills Community Church, Kent Hughes’ Hebrews Commentary (An Anchor for the Soul), and The NIV Application Commentary by George H. Guthrie.