

Heb. 3:1-6 – The Servant and the Son – Lesson Summary

My mind wanders. In the time it takes me to write this I will have looked out the window countless times, checked my phone, or listened in on numerous conversations in the hallway. It's crazy how easily I can be distracted. My eyes, ears, and thoughts are drawn to countless places and my guess is, yours are too. The author of Hebrews is no stranger to this tendency. In fact, as he begins chapter 3, we'll see that he challenges us to *"consider Jesus"* (ESV) or *"fix your thoughts on Jesus"* (NIV). The Hebrews needed to hear this and so do we.

The author of Hebrews would have made a great lawyer. He uses the word "therefore" at least 11 times throughout his letter. He builds a consistent argument emphasizing Christ's superiority as he presents one truth and then builds onto that with another. Both chapter 2 and 3 begin in similar ways. In chapter 2 the author challenges us to *"pay much closer attention to what we have heard"* (2:1). Chapter 3 begins with the challenge to *"fix our thoughts on Jesus"* (3:1). Both commands remind us that we are to be constantly listening to and looking at Christ. Chapter 2 challenges us to listen while chapter 3 challenges us to look. In order to draw the reader's eyes back toward Christ, the author takes a moment to compare Him to Moses.

The second division in these verses appears when the author makes a direct comparison between Moses and Jesus. He takes a few short verses to remind us of Moses' calling in God's house. Moses was a servant *"faithful in God's house"* (3:5) who testified to that which would be spoken later. His role was an essential part of God's plan for restoring a broken people and creation, however, he was not superior in God's plan. Instead, it's Jesus who is *"faithful over God's house"* (3:6). The slight change in preposition changes everything regarding position. While Moses is part of God's house, Jesus is superior over it. Not only is He superior over the house, but also over all who are in His house. As members of His house we are to live differently because of Christ's superiority. This leads to the author's final challenge in this section.

Once again, the author of Hebrews continues to weave a consistent theme throughout his letter. His "if this, then this" approach emphasizes a need for behavioral changes. If Jesus is *"faithful over God's house as a son,"* then our lives should look very different in two specific ways. First, we are to hold fast to our confidence. The word confidence in the Greek more accurately describes a confidence that leads to proclamation. Because we are so assured of the Gospel and the saving work of Christ, we are able to proclaim His truth in word and deed in the midst of an unbelieving world. Secondly, we are to hold fast to boasting in our hope. The hope the author is referring to is a hope that enables us to look forward to the promises of God. Specifically, we can look forward to the glorious return of Christ. In the midst of suffering, we look forward to the hope of glory. In the midst of confusion, we look forward to the assurance of God's faithfulness through Christ. In the midst of chaos, we look forward to a new creation in which sin no longer has a hold. When we are holding fast to boasting in our hope, we will see His hand in the midst of all circumstances. This is why it is so important that we *"fix our thoughts on Jesus"*.

Are your thoughts fixed on Jesus? Do you view the world through His eyes with His Word written upon your heart? Or, are you like me, not only easily distracted in the daily to-do lists, but also distracted from the truth? Praise God that the Gospel of Jesus is true. Praise God that He provides His Spirit in order that we are no longer eternally distracted away from His glory.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How often does your mind wonder? What dominates your thoughts? What does it take to help you refocus?
- 2) Throughout the letter we are going to see the author build his argument that Christ is superior. Based on this truth he will challenge us to live differently. In what ways do you live/ behave that would suggest Christ is superior in your life? In what ways do you not live this way?
- 3) The author finishes this section challenging us to hold fast to our confidence and boast in our hope. What do you think that means? What do you think it looks like in your life?