

Hebrews Chapter 3

Theme: Jesus Greater Than Moses – Warning Against Hard Hearts

I. Hebrews 3:1–6 — Jesus Is Greater Than Moses:

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

2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was in all God’s household.

3 For Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder has more honor than the house.

4 Now every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God.

5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s household, as a testimony to what would be said in the future.

6 But Christ was faithful as a Son over his household. And we are that household if we hold on to our confidence and the hope in which we boast.

Greek Word Study:

- “**Consider**” (κατανοήσατε – *katanoēsate*): To fix your attention thoughtfully; not a passing glance, but deep contemplation.
 - “**Apostle**” (ἀπόστολος – *apostolos*): One sent with authority; Jesus is uniquely God’s messenger.
 - “**High priest**” (ἀρχιερεύς – *archiereus*): Introduces a major theme; Jesus mediates between God and man.
 - “**Confession**” (ὁμολογίας – *homologias*): Profession of faith; public declaration of allegiance to Christ.
 - “**Confidence**” (παρρησίαν – *parrēsian*): Boldness, freedom of speech, assurance.
 - “**Hope**” (ἐλπίδος – *elpidos*): Confident expectation, not wishful thinking.
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Historical & Theological Insights:

- **Moses** was revered in Jewish culture as the lawgiver and faithful servant (cf. *Numbers 12:7*, “My servant Moses... is faithful in all my household.”).
 - Jesus is “**Son**” **over the house**, not just a servant. He is the builder (Creator) and heir.
 - The “**household**” refers to God’s people. Moses was part of it; Jesus rules over it.
 - The conditional “if” in verse 6 points to perseverance—not as a means of salvation, but as evidence of belonging.
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Old Testament Reference:

Numbers 12:7 (CSB):

“Not so with my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my household.”

Application:

- Fix your mind daily on Jesus—not just His work, but who He is: God’s sent One and your faithful High Priest.
 - Boast in hope. In a culture of uncertainty, Christians cling to Jesus with confidence.
 - Don’t idolize Christian leaders—only Jesus is the builder of the house.
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II. Hebrews 3:7–19 — Warning Against an Unbelieving Heart:

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,

9 where your ancestors tested me, tried me, and saw my works for forty years.

10 Therefore I was provoked to anger with that generation and said, "They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known my ways."

11 So I swore in my anger, "They will not enter my rest."

12 Watch out, brothers and sisters, so that there won’t be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

13 But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin’s deception.

14 For we have become participants in Christ if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start.

15 As it is said:

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.

16 For who heard and rebelled? Wasn’t it all who came out of Egypt under Moses?

17 With whom was God angry for forty years? Wasn’t it with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who disobeyed?

19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Greek Word Study:

- “Harden” (σκληρύνετε – sklērýnēte): From *sklēros*, “hard, stubborn”; same root as “sclerosis.”
- “Unbelieving” (ἀπιστίας – apistias): Lack of faith; refusal to trust God.

- “**Encourage**” (παρκαλεῖτε – **parakaleite**): To exhort, comfort, or strengthen; same root as “Paraclete” (Holy Spirit).
 - “**Deception**” (ἀπάτη – **apatē**): Delusion or misperception; sin lies.
 - “**Participants**” (μέτοχοι – **metochoi**): Partners, companions, sharers in something.
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Old Testament Background:

- **Psalm 95:7–11** is quoted here; a worship psalm that recalls Israel’s rebellion at Meribah and Massah (Exodus 17; Numbers 14).
 - Israel tested God’s patience despite seeing miracles in the wilderness, ultimately refusing to trust Him to enter the Promised Land.
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Historical & Theological Insight:

- The “rest” refers to the Promised Land—but ultimately points forward to spiritual rest in Christ and eternal rest with Him.
 - Hebrews uses the **Exodus generation** as a warning: proximity to miracles and religious experience doesn’t guarantee faith.
 - The warning is communal: sin is deceptive, and mutual encouragement is essential.
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Application:

- **Today** is the key word—respond to God’s Word now. Don’t presume on tomorrow.
 - Guard your heart: unbelief grows quietly through neglect and sin’s deceit.
 - Encourage one another. Community is a spiritual safeguard.
 - Holding firm is not about *earning* salvation, but showing you truly belong to Christ.
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Group Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to “consider” Jesus? How can we do that practically?
 2. How does Jesus being greater than Moses shape our understanding of the gospel?
 3. What are some ways you’ve seen “spiritual drift” or “hardening of heart” happen in your life or others’?
 4. How can we encourage one another daily in our faith journeys?
 5. What is “God’s rest,” and how can Christians enter into it?
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Summary & Takeaways for Today:

Theme	Truth	Application
Jesus is greater	He is the Son over God's house	Worship Him and hold fast to hope
Warning against unbelief	Israel failed through hardened hearts	Guard your heart and persevere
Community matters	We are part of God's household	Encourage others daily in Christ
Today matters	Faith requires a present response	Respond now—don't delay obedience
