
Sermon Notes

February 5, 2017

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Greater Than Moses

Hebrews 3:1-6

So What?

- ❖ Why does anyone need to **prove** that Jesus is superior to Moses?
 - the author's audience: a mixed group of believers and unbelievers
 - within that group are some who are keeping one eye on Jesus and one eye on Moses
- ❖ Moses was and is esteemed by the Jews far above any other Jewish person who has ever lived
 - God has His hand on Moses' life right from the beginning
 - Moses' life is marked by one miracle after another
- ❖ Moses is extraordinarily important to God and God's work... He is a great leader and a great prophet
 - but Jesus is superior to Moses in every way
 - 3:1, **consider Jesus**... keep paying continuous attention to Jesus
 - set your mind on Jesus and let it remain there

Holy Brothers

- ❖ This command is issued to **holy brothers**, those who are believers
 - distinction between "brothers" and "holy brothers"
 - **holy brothers** share deep relationships that are rooted in Christ
 - **holy brothers** share a heavenly calling
 - the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14)
 - those who belong to Christ do not need religious ritual... they already have spiritual reality
- ❖ **Consider Jesus**
 - don't get sucked back into ritual and religion
 - don't get paralyzed looking at problems and persecution
- ❖ Keep considering Jesus
 - Jesus is sufficient for everything
 - Jesus is the supreme reality
- ❖ Why? Why do I need to keep doing this if I am already in Christ?
 - because you haven't arrived yet!
 - Philippians 3:10-12
 - HOW MUCH do you enjoy your relationship with Jesus?

Jesus the Apostle and High Priest

- ❖ Apostle = messenger or sent one, was a title used for ambassadors
 - as an Apostle, Jesus comes in the power of God with all of God's mercy and love, grace and justice
 - Jesus speaks on behalf of His Father
- ❖ High Priest = a bridge between God and His people
 - those who served as High Priests served in a role of great authority and great responsibility (a sacred trust)
 - Jesus is the supreme mediator between God and man

Moses and Jesus

- ❖ Both Moses and Jesus are faithful to the tasks God puts in front of them
 - Moses, *cf.* Numbers 12:7-8
 - with Moses as a template, we see how Jesus is even more faithful to God and God's plans and purposes for Him
- ❖ Jesus is completely faithful to His Father
 - in all things He seeks the Father's glory, not his own
 - *cf.* John 17:4
- ❖ Both Jesus and Moses are *faithful in all God's house*
 - house ≠ building
 - house = the household of God's people

- ❖ A steward doesn't own the house, a steward manages the house
 - Moses was a "manager" for a while
 - Jesus owns the house
 - Jesus is the builder of the house
- ❖ Moses is a servant, Jesus is a son
- ❖ Moses was a shadow or a type of the One who was to come
 - Jesus is the substance (reality) of which Moses is the shadow
 - if you reject the substance, the shadow is of no value to you
- ❖ How do we know if we are part of Jesus' house? (3:6)
 - continuance in the Christian life is the test of its reality
 - *cf.* John 8:31-32s

Personal Reflection

1. How are you doing at keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus? What causes you to put your attention and focus elsewhere?
2. Do you ever find yourself getting sucked back into "ritual and religion" rather than focusing on your relationship with Jesus? What will help you stay focused on the substance of faith rather than the shadow of faith?
3. Are you confident you belong to "Jesus' house"? Why or why not? If you are unsure, please share your doubts and concerns with a trusted Christian friend or a church leader.