

**Hebrews**



**Promises  
Faithfully  
Kept**

# Heb. 3:1-6 (CSB)

## Looking Beyond Moses

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul makes a great leadership statement every Christian disciple-maker should have before them and those they lead. “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” Christian disciple-makers are only effective in their roles to the extent that they point others beyond themselves to following Jesus Himself. To that extent, follow your leaders.

I know of a guy who was once caught in the middle of a really awkward church drama. He wasn't the cause of it. Nor did he add to it. He was caught in the middle of it because he was close to the two people that were feuding. The two people feuding were the two pastors on staff. One had made up lies about the other in order to make himself look better and seem more trustworthy. The other responded with anger and accusations of slander and heatedly questioned anyone who dared doubt him.

Within a year, both of them were gone from that church.

After finding out about this drama, I asked the guy caught in the middle if he had lost all respect for the two pastors. He said, “No.” He told me that it was hard for him to relate to either of them after they left because each cut off communication with the church's members. But he did not want to forget the good that God did through each of those shepherds. The problem that led to the dissolution of their friendship and their standing with the church was their focus on themselves, refusing to point others beyond themselves to Jesus through the difficulty. While one pastor started the problem by spreading lies, both of them were seeking to protect and promote themselves instead of seeking to lead the people to look beyond them to God, to Christ.

He concluded, “We dishonor those leading us to walk with Christ both when we disregard them completely and when we become focused on the leader instead of the Lord who calls and equips the leader to serve.”

As we look at Hebrews 3:1-6, we will consider briefly Moses and Jesus, both of whom are rightly recognized as leaders of God's people. They both faced great difficulty and suffering in leading people prior to their deaths. They have several distinctions in common, but there is an important, essential difference between them. Moses was a great servant and leader among the people of God. Jesus is God the Son and as Son is over the people of God. The original audience was considering the possibility of

rejecting the Son of God in order to follow Moses's writings, but Moses's life and writings were all intended to point toward the Son.

**3:1 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.**

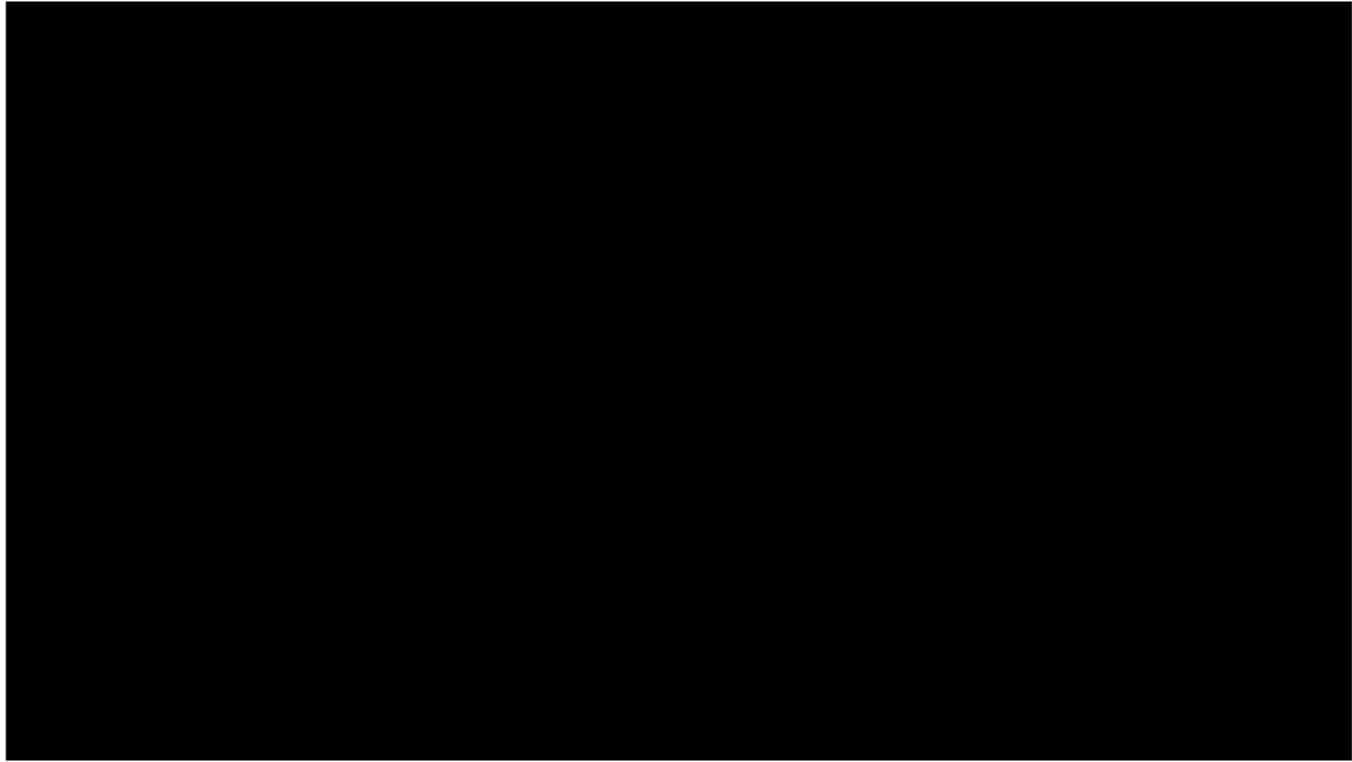
**3 For Jesus is considered  
worthy of more glory than  
Moses, just as the builder has  
more honor than the house.**

**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.**



Pray

**As the people God has called  
and made holy by Christ, we  
must set our focus on Jesus.**

1) As the people God has called and made holy by Christ, we must set our focus on Jesus.

Look at v. 1 again with me. “Holy brothers and sisters, who share in a heavenly calling . . . .”

Aren’t these the people that are considering the possibility of giving up on Jesus? Some of them in their minds may have thought, “I’m only one terrible, no good, bad day away from giving up on Christianity.” And we thought “deconstructing” was a temptation only faced in the 21st century. But they hadn’t yet given up on Jesus, and the author wants to remind them of their shared confession of Jesus as Lord. Jesus had not changed. They had suffered, yes, but the problem was not Jesus but their perspective. Jesus had not given up on them. If they truly belonged to the Lord, then they are His holy people because He called them and would keep them.

Have you ever read through 1 Corinthians in a single attempt, just straight through? It is not too terribly long. It can easily be done in terms of length. It would only take about an hour.

The problem with trying to read through 1 Corinthians is the constant shock factor you get reading through that book. The Corinthians had some of the craziest ideas infiltrate their church among any of the churches mentioned in the New Testament. You constantly are asking, “They did ‘what’?!”

You know one of the most shocking statements you find in that book upon reading it for a second time? The first thing said about that church: Those having been made holy in Christ Jesus, called as holy ones. Sanctified in Christ Jesus, called as saints.

If you have been called by God into relationship with Him, it is His work to save you and keep you. Yes, you demonstrate that calling by your faith, and you demonstrate that faith by your loving obedience to Christ. But it is God who brings you to life. It is God who keeps you in His hands. It is God who keeps you in salvation. Jesus tells

us in John 10

27 My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

Yes, even those who are truly the people of God will face doubts and will learn what it is to suffer. Those times will be moments that the enemy wants to use to tempt you to deny your maker and Savior. Satanic forces would want nothing better than for you to try to isolate and solve your problems yourself. You are to look to Jesus.

The author refers to Jesus as the apostle and high priest of our confession. To be an apostle is to be sent out with authority to communicate a message. You were not the one who went to God to ask him for a savior to die in your place and to give you new life. You were dead and did not even know you needed life. The Son came from the presence of God declaring the gospel and being the good news for us.

He became our high priest acting on our behalf to reconcile us to God. We did not come up with this message and covenant. We did not save ourselves. We don't keep ourselves in salvation either. God does. So, let's stop focusing on ourselves, in the easy times and in the hard times. Set your eyes on the one who makes all the difference and who will make a difference in your life as you do. Set your eyes on Jesus.

# Moses was a great servant of Christ among the people of God.

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The author begins a comparison and contrast between Jesus and Moses in vs. 2, making an analogy to a house. Now, as far as I know, there is no licensed local building company known as RVA Houses by Moses or Better Houses by Jesus. We don't know of a physical house that Jesus built that is standing in Jerusalem or by Moses. The author takes the concept of a house or a household, with its structured relationships, and refers to the people of Christ as this house. This reference is along the lines of Peter and Paul's writings who refer to the church as a spiritual building, with Christ and the apostles as the foundation.

Moses was not the designer or builder of the house. He was not the owner. In terms of household structure, he was a glad and faithful servant. He belongs within the spiritual building. He has a very special place within the family history.

Often times today we treat Moses as just the answer to a trivia question. Who received the ten commandments from God? Moses! Alright, moving on . . .

The original audience of Hebrews, though, had good reason to think highly of Moses. He met with God personally and lived, . . . both at the burning bush and before the tent of meeting. God referred to Moses as His friend. Moses was the man God used to communicate God's plan of rescue for Israel out of Egypt. He was the servant whom God used to institute Passover. He was the leader God had stand before the people at the Red Sea and stretch out his hands as God parted the waters. Moses led the people in worship and received plans from the Lord about how to build the tabernacle. Moses was allowed to see the glory of the Lord, even though it was a limited display of glory. Moses's face became luminescent in a way that the people noticed. At Mt. Sinai, God formed a covenant with the people with Moses mediating it. Moses is the leader who endured much rebellion by the people, even though they were ultimately rebelling against God. And he led them to the edge of the Promised Land, where the people rebelled again, this time causing them to have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

Then this man whom God used to Save his people out of Egypt, whom God used to create an entire culture centered on the worship of YHWH, and whom God used to formalize the identity of an entire nation, was going to have to wander another 40 years in the wilderness, waiting on the rebellious people to die away so the next generation could enter.

And through all this, the text of Scripture tells us that Moses was humble and that he was faithful in all of God's house.

That reference to faithfulness in all of God's house comes from YHWH himself in testifying about Moses when the people wanted to dismiss him as leader. Actually, it was Moses's own brother and sister who wanted to depose him from leadership, to convince the people to follow Moses no longer.

When the author of Hebrews wrote his letter, he knew from Scripture that this was not the first time that a group known as the people of God considered rebelling against the mediator of God's covenant. Just as the grass seemed greener in Egypt in the wilderness, it seemed better to this original audience to practice Judaism instead of trusting Christ Jesus.

But as faithful as Moses was in the whole house, he still did not measure up to the standard of perfection that is Christ, the mediator of the new covenant.

When Moses felt like he'd finally had enough of the people's complaining, he lashed out in anger, striking a rock that God had said only to speak to. Basically, he tried to make himself impressive in the eyes of the people instead of showing God as holy. And this great servant of God was not even allowed to step into the promised land.

Moses fell short, but he had done great things as acts of faith.

His greatest work as a servant was to point forward to the Messiah, to Christ. Hebrews even tells us that Moses's faith was one that was oriented toward the future, toward Christ. And so the greatest service Moses could render was to be a sign pointing forward to Christ and the gospel.

# Jesus has been faithful as Son over God's people.

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Jesus is greater than Moses in the way that a Son is of greater honor than the servants of Mediterranean home of the 1st c. You had in a larger household living together as a single unit those of the family and those who worked there. While they all belonged in the house, the master of the house and his heirs were recognized as being of the greater standing.

Jesus is of greater honor than the people of God because He is God and is the One by whom we are formed into a single people. Moses is just one of us, a member and servant within God's household.

This passage is speaking strongly to the continuity and discontinuity of the covenants. Clearly something has changed since the time of Moses. Jesus has come and instituted the new covenant by His blood! The long awaited Messiah has arrived.

Moses did say that a prophet like him would arise from among his brothers.

Deut. 18:15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. 16 For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

Someone has to stand in the gap as mediator between God and man.

A prophet like Moses did arise to mediate for the people but in a greater way. He was

The True Israelite who came from the Riches of Royalty to identify with the people in their lowliness.  
Was from the very presence of God, not just as friend but as Son

He is the Savior whom God used to rescue His people, not just from an oppressive king but from the greater oppression of sin and death.

He did more than speak the words of God. He himself is the Word.

He not only proclaimed the gospel. He himself is the Word of the gospel.

Filled the forms and expectations of Passover within himself and through his sacrifice and resurrection.

He would establish a new covenant, one that surpassed the old that Moses had mediated, for the old was intended to point us to the new.

And he also wrestled with the rebellious hearts of those who were supposed to recognize him as leader. Like Moses, he was recognized as humble, but when the final test came, he did not fail.

Instead of trusting in his own power, he entrusted himself to the Father, even to the point of death. Instead of striking out, he allowed himself to be struck and pierced for our sake. He died and he rose again so that He could lead us into the very presence of God, into the new land of promise.

The Son is YHWH who was building a spiritual house and had been getting the ground ready long before the incarnation. But the foundation could not be properly laid until then. So, Moses was getting us ready to look to Christ, to the founding stone who was to come.



# Look beyond the legacy of faithful servants to Christ and cling to Him.

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Illustration (point 2) :

There is a tendency to disregard the contribution of great leaders and inventor during their lifetime, thus the phrase, “They were ahead of their time.” Some artists and composers were poor their entire life, and their work was not celebrated until after they died. Sometimes people don’t advertise themselves well. Sometimes the newly felt absence of the leader makes people aware of the missing unique perspective, realizing how they had taken the gifted person for granted.

Sometimes, leaders’ thoughts and actions are so disruptive to the status quo that the people of their day kill them, but later generations read their history and realize that such leaders points should be considered.

Jesus pointed out to the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23 that they revered the prophets of the past but had hearts that were just as wicked as those who killed the prophets in the past. 29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, 30 and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we wouldn’t have taken part with them in shedding the prophets’ blood.’ 31 So you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors’ sins!”

Jesus called them out and put their sinfulness on display for everyone to see. They denounced the murder of the prophets of the past, but they would end up having the Son of God killed.

Sometimes we don’t like leaders because we see them as people with whom we must argue to defend ourselves and defend our points until they’re no longer there to argue with.

Teachers, pastors, parents, bosses, friends

Then when they're gone and no longer available for us to personally relate to, we are tempted to disregard or revere them. But the wisdom, greatness, and love that they displayed did not originate with them. Like Moses, those who have been positive examples of godliness did their greatest service by pointing beyond themselves to the one who is love, who is the embodiment of grace. Their temporary presence in your life was intended to point you to the One who will never leave you and never let you go.

Look beyond the examples of godliness you have had in your life to Christ who has been drawing you to himself. Cling to him. If you truly belong to Him, He has made you holy and His. If you belong to Him, you will show it because it is a work that God will do in you.

