

Hebrews 2025 | Jesus is Better Than Moses

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Hebrews 3:1-6

Let's get into Hebrew chapter 3. If you're a sports fan, one of the fun, little sports trivia things is the question, who is the GOAT? Now, if you ask, who is the goat, and you don't give any context then you sort of know what sport we're talking about. You're talking about the NBA and you're asking the question is it Michael Jordan or LeBron? That is the age old who's the GOAT debate. Now, GOAT means greatest of all time if you're unfamiliar with GOAT language. So, who is the greatest of all time? Is it Michael Jordan or LeBron? And depending on your age and who you are a fan of, there are some heated arguments. So what I decided to do was just ask ChatGPT who the greatest of all time is. ChatGPT automatically went to Jordan and LeBron. It said Jordan is the legend, LeBron James is the king, and then it gave me their resumes.

So, let's do Jordan first. Jordan is a six time NBA champion. And by the way, that is six and what? That is six and zero. He's never lost. He's always clutch. If you put him in he's going to win. He just doesn't lose. That is what he does. LeBron on the other hand has won four NBA championships but it's four out of ten. So he lost as man as Jordan won. Jordan is a 5x MVP. LeBron is a 4x MVP. Michael Jordan has ten scoring titles but LeBron is the greatest scorer of all time. He has scored the most points in the NBA. He has also been in the NBA for lots and lots of years but still he has scored the most points so he has longevity which also adds to his argument. Jordan retired a couple times and was also a little bit off the rails at times so you could say in that respect that LeBron is better. He is more consistent in that way. You also have Jordan who was the defensive player of the year in 1988. LeBron doesn't have that. Some people use that as an argument because in the 90s Jordan actually played defense. That is a major difference, right? But, then you could also say now the scorers are much more elite. Skill players are better now than they were back then. It's always a comparison between the two. Jordan is the cultural icon. The Air

Jordan shoes changed everything. NBA players wear his shoes. If you go to any city anywhere, what are the kids going to be walking around in? Jordans! But, you also have LeBron James who is great in the way that he wasn't just bound to one position. He wasn't just a point guard. He could play every position. He was a great passer, a great scorer, and a great all-around player.

So ChatGPT gave me those resumes and then basically said... *It's your choice...* You decide who the greatest is. I put in my choice, which I'm wearing Jordan's right now so you probably know who I picked, Michael Jordan. ChatGPT then was like... *yes, you're right...* but, I think it would have also said that had I put LeBron James to just please me but either way it is a fun debate.

Now here we go into Hebrews chapter 3 where the preacher is going to set up the same argument but it's not going to be about Michael Jordan and LeBron James. It's going to be about Moses and Jesus because if you were to ask any Jewish person in the first century who the greatest person in the Old Testament was- who's the GOAT- they probably would have had a few options, David, Abraham, Elijah, but at the end of the day every Jew would probably settle on Moses as the absolute greatest of all time for a lot of reasons that we are going to get into. They would all agree he's the greatest, he's the GOAT. And what our preacher is going to come in and said is... *Hey, Moses is great but Jesus is the GOAT. Moses is great. Moses is good but there is no comparison. Jesus is the greatest of all time and here is what you should do with that. Let go of Moses and hold fast to Jesus. Let go of Moses. Let go of the Mosaic system. Let go of the law. Let go of the tabernacle. Let go of the temple. Let go of all of those things and hold fast to Jesus because he is better...*

So I'm going to ask us today, is there anything that you're holding onto as a confidence and a hope other than Jesus? If so, you need to let that thing go and hold tightly to Christ.

Scripture:

Hebrews 3:1-6 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, 2 who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as

Moses also was faithful in all God's house. 3 For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. 4 (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) 5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, 6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

We've laid out the argument... *Hey, you guys love Moses but here is Jesus who has much more glory than Moses. Why? Because he built the thing. He is the Son. He's not a servant so you need to hold onto Jesus and let go of Moses, let go of whatever is keeping you from Jesus and run and cling to Christ...*

The first thing we're going to see is this idea of, are you family? I ask it in a question because last week we talked about how Jesus came and became like us so that he could make us brothers and sisters. He came to make us the family of God who is bound for glory and now in chapter 3 the preacher says, "therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling.." and he's calling out the family... *Hey, you who are holy brothers and sisters... Hey, you who share in a heavenly calling...* So I just want to ask, is that you? Is the preacher talking to you? Are you one of the holy brothers or sisters? Are you one of those who have a heavenly calling?

Last night we had my grandma's birthday. It was at my mom's house and it was a whole thing. The whole family was invited and we were all there. We had brisket and birthday cake. All the kids were running around and then after the cake we took some pictures. We started with the kids- my mom and her brother- and grandma. Then it was the grandkids that includes me and my sister and my wife and her husband. Next it was the great grandkids. We took all these different pictures and what I noticed was this- none of you guys were there. None of you came to my grandma's birthday. Shame on you, right? Well, why weren't you there? Why weren't you at my grandma's birthday? Because you're not part of the family, right? That's why you weren't there. See, the people that were there were all a part of the family. We all got pictures because we are connected to our grandma. We are a part of the family.

So, I ask you this, if Jesus threw a birthday party and invited only his family would you be there? Would you be a part of the picture? When he says... *Hey, kids, come around. Hey, brothers and sisters, come around...* is that you? Or, would you be the person getting in the picture and Jesus saying.. *umm, who are you? I don't know you. You're not a brother. You're not one of God's kids...* Would you be a part of the picture? Would you be at the party because he's addressing the family, the holy brothers that are set apart from the world and bound to a heavenly calling. I think maybe he's hammering this point because they are a people who have grew up as Jewish boys and girls so they know they're ethnicity. They know they are a part of the Jewish system. They know their place; it's Jerusalem. They know they're people and they know they're place so I think he's calling them to know that if they're with Christ then they are a part of a new people- Jew AND Gentile. It's the church now. They are no longer just Israel. Now they are a part of the church and their place is no longer just Jerusalem. No, they're new place is heaven. A new heaven and a new earth, that is what is coming. I think they were a people who probably loved their people and their place and that's okay but they needed to love something else a little bit more and that's the new people of God and the new place of God which is where they're going. Yes, they needed to love their people and love their place but long for something better and something more.

I think for us, we are mostly people who probably love our place. We probably love being Americans and love living in America but sometimes we can love that too much and we don't long for what's to come. Yes, it's okay to love being American and it's okay to love America but you need to love something else way more and that is being a part of the people of God, being in the place of God, and knowing where God is taking you. Love America but long for the new heaven and earth. Long for what is to come more than what you have now and as you long for it you're going to long for Christ to return.

So notice what we're commanded to do as the family. If you are family consider Jesus. This is the command. We are to consider Jesus. What does it mean to consider Jesus? It means to think about him, to ponder on him,

to meditate on him, to gaze at him, or to figure him out. It's not to just glance but to stare, to think, and to process who is Jesus? Consider Jesus!

I think for most of us for the last week and a half we've tried to consider this guy, Charlie Kirk. Some of us didn't even know who he was but you just can't help but to hear about him in our cultural conversations. Maybe you've heard his name or heard things about him. Some of us have got to know him through headlines and soundbites and if you look at those headlines or soundbites then he is either the worst person or the best person, right? When you've had conversations with people he's either the worst person or the best person and you've had to consider that. But, do you know what is neat about this particular situation? If you really want to know then it's mainly all there because there are hours and hours and hours of video that you can go watch and decide if this guy is terrible or good. You can decide, does he make good arguments or does he not? It's all there for you. You can figure out for yourself where you land on if he was a good guy or a bad guy. You have all the evidence.

It's all there for you to consider and for most of us we don't like that. We like soundbites and headlines. It's okay if that's how you approach it because at the end of the day he's just a dude but when it comes to Jesus, if that is how you are trying to consider Jesus- through headlines and soundbites or through little devotionals, sermons, and podcasts or through people that know Jesus, people that speak about Jesus, and people that you come in contact with who say things about Jesus- if that is the only way you're considering Jesus, secondhand through other people that are saying things about him or preachers that are preaching about him, if that is all you know of Jesus then you might not actually know the real Jesus. You might not actually know who Christ really is and if that is the case then I've got really good news. If you actually know guess what? You have all the information you need. Do you know what is really cool? We have the gospels. We have Jesus' full life- what he did, what he taught, who he is. You can actually go and consider him for yourself.

So here, based on this command to consider Jesus, here is what I implore for you to do this week as homework. Consider Jesus through one of the gospels. You can pick the gospel but if you don't want to pick then I'll pick it for you. Go to John, the long form version, and consider Jesus - who is

he, what is he doing, what is going on- and then pray to the Lord. Pray to see Christ from the source God would have at our disposal to get to know Jesus. You don't have to have headlines and soundbites. You don't have to have what your grandma or coworker tells you. You can actually know for yourself who Jesus is by reading his Word so I encourage you this week to consider Jesus in the gospels so that you actually know him and you're not just hearing other people who know him. Consider him.

Then notice what the preacher says about Jesus. He says a couple things about Jesus- he is the apostle and the high priest of our confession. He is the apostle but that is a little confusing because I thought Jesus had apostles, right? How many of you thought Jesus had apostles? How is he an apostle? The word "apostle" just means a sent one. So someone sends someone and that is an apostle. It is an official sent one or a messenger. So we could say that Jesus is the OG apostle. He's the original. He's the one that was sent from God to come here, to rescue us, and to reveal God to us. That is who Jesus is. He is THE apostle, THE sent one.

If you notice, after every service at the very end we have a saying, "you're not dismissed; you're what? You're sent." And every time there is a verse that comes up on the screen. It's John 20 and in this verse Jesus is talking. He says, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." That is where we get that message. God sent Jesus on a rescue mission for us and now we get to go on a rescue mission for Jesus. As he is sent, we also are sent.

So Jesus is the apostle who came to rescue us, but he's also our high priest of our confession. What does the high priest do? We're going to get into this a lot as we go through Hebrews so we aren't going to hit this as much here but very simply a priest is the mediator between you and God in the Old Testament. The high priest is representing man to God and God to man. Jesus is the great high priest because he is the great mediator, as Paul tells Timothy, because he is the God Man. He can perfectly represent God and man because he is the God Man. So he is the high priest who is better. He has already given his blood as a propitiation as we saw last week but notice it says it is "of our confession."

So what is this confession? Well, I think for the original audience, they would have known what the confession is to become a believer. If you think about Romans chapter ten, verse nine, what does it say? It says this, "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." That is the great confession of the church- Jesus Christ is Lord. He is God. He is the anointed one. He came to rescue us. He is the king over it all. He is Lord and we are believing in our heart that he died and rose again to save us. The confession is this- Jesus is my Lord and my savior. That is how you come to know Christ. So if you're wondering like... *Man, I would love to be in the family. I would love to become a Christian and be forgiven of all my sins. What do I do?...* You confess that Jesus is Lord and you believe that he's your savior. That is how! That is how you come to Christ. You trust in Him and Him alone. You hold on to Him and Him alone.

So, who is Jesus? First of all, he's the great apostle and he's the great high priest but then notice he's also faithful. We see that Jesus was faithful. Verse two says this, "who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house." Again, here he slowly rolls out the argument and you can almost hear the Jewish people saying... *Hold on. Why are you comparing Jesus to Moses? Are you saying Jesus is in the league of Moses? Wait, what? What are we doing here?...* And he's going to say... *Yep, that's what I'm saying. I'm getting to it and I'm going to show you that he's way better than Moses. There is no comparison...*

Notice, first of all, you have Moses who is faithful in all God's house. Moses was faithful. He did a lot of faithful things but when you think about Jesus he is also faithful in all things. If we just think back to Moses for a minute and you just pan out his life and think about it, yes, Moses was faithful to God, the purposes of God, and in what he did for God. Moses is a big figure. He did a lot of amazing things for the Lord. You had his miraculous birth. He was hidden in the Nile, put in a little ark, and then raised as one of Pharaoh's sons. Then he gets called to go rescue God's people from Pharaoh out of Egypt and out of slavery. He does that through ten plagues that end with a blood plague and he leads the people out. They go through the Red Sea that he parts with his staff and all the armies get swallowed up in death because of Moses. (It was actually because of God but Moses was the leader.) He is the one that leads them through the wilderness. He

goes up on a mountain and gives them God's Word. He builds a tabernacle. He gives them the Passover. He reveals the law to them. He gives them manna from Heaven. Moses is faithful in all sorts of things!

He did a lot of things but then there are also a few awkward things with Moses. For instance, how did Moses start his career? By murdering someone. He murdered an Egyptian. That is how his career got started. That is how he ran to meeting God in the first place. Then, even in the wilderness, he didn't always stay faithful and trust God. He got angry, he struck the rock, and was actually forbidden from going into the promised land. So Moses was faithful in the totality of his life but not always.

And that is always the mixed bag of the Old Testament, right? You have David who does great things AND horrendous things. You have Abraham who has great days AND bad days. And doesn't that sound like you and me? That gives me a little hope because I have some decent days but I also have some horrific days. Do you know what it draws our attention to? To the one who has no bad days. The one who has no bad days is Jesus.

He is faithful but he is also MORE faithful and we are going to see the argument that he is not only MORE faithful but he has WAY more glory. Notice verse three says this, "For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. 4 (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)"

What is he trying to say?... *Hey, Moses is great but he ain't Jesus...* Jesus is in a league all by himself. See, Jesus is considered to have MORE glory. When you add Jesus up, when you weigh him, when you look at his life, when you see what he has done, Jesus is clearly more glorious. He is just better. He is superior. He is the GOAT. He is the greatest of all time. He wins the day. When you add the resumes up, Jesus wins every single time. He has MUCH MORE glory.

I'm reminded of Matthew chapter 17 and the mount of transfiguration when Jesus goes up on a mount just like Moses went up on a mount and he brings three of his disciples with him. All of a sudden Jesus' deity comes forth through his humanity and they see him in sort of the splendor of the

sun. They also notice there are two guys that show up on the mount. Do you remember who they are? Moses and Elijah. So now you have the disciples looking up and they see Jesus who they know, they see Moses who they've loved, and they see Elijah who they've loved. And what do the disciples say? They say... *this is good! Let us build a temple to all three of them. Let us make a Moses temple, a Jesus temple, and an Elijah temple. Let us build something for all of them...* And what happens? God the Father shows up and says... *this is my beloved son in him I am pleased...* Then what does he say?... *Listen to him...*

In other words, they've missed it! Elijah and Moses aren't coming to be an equal to Jesus. They're coming to see Jesus! They're coming to worship Jesus. They're coming to listen to Jesus. They're here for him because the whole story is about him! You need not listen to Moses or Elijah. You need to listen to Jesus because they're all pointing to him.

That is who Jesus is! He's worthy of MUCH MORE glory than Moses. He is the Son.

Then we have this little argument about how he has much more glory because the builder of a house has more glory than the house itself. This was common in ancient day. If you bought the house you were better than the house because you could build another house and even in our moment, if you see a painting, architecture, or something that someone has done you're mesmerized by it but then you're really overwhelmed by who made it, built it, or painted it. I remember several years ago when I got to go to Rome while I was finishing up seminary. I was able to go to Rome for a couple of weeks and we went to the Vatican. Now, I'll be honest, as a Baptist I was not excited to go. I had no idea why we were going to the Vatican. I would have rather went to the Colosseum. I didn't want to go to the Vatican; that is Catholic stuff. I'm sorry but I'm just telling you my heart.

So, we go in and I'm like... *Wow. It's the Sistine Chapel. Who cares. It's a chapel. No big deal...* I remember walking into the Sisten Chapel and when I walked through the little door there were hundreds of people coming in and it was dead silent. You could hear a pin drop. I remember looking up at the back wall and it was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen in my

whole life other than my wife. (I have to get that in there!) Then I look up at the ceiling and I could not believe it. If you've been there then you know this but it is an other-human moment. It is an out-of-body experience. You cannot imagine the colors and the painting and how beautiful it is. If you've only seen it in a book then you haven't seen it. It is OVERWHELMING. I had tears streaking down my face. Everybody is dead silent in awe of the glory of this painting. As I'm looking up my eyes and mind went to this thought... *Man, what was Michelangelo like?*... Could you imagine if he had been there? He would be like... *Hey, what do you think?*... I'd say... *BRO! YOU'RE AMAZING!*... I would be fanboying over Michelangelo, right? Because how glorious is he if he did something like that with the work of his hands? It's his imagination. That's why any painting by him is worth a whole lot of money. If he's got his name on it then you're going to pay a lot for it. Why? Because he brings the glory.

So, what is the argument? The builder of the house gets more glory. And guess what? God built all things so God is the most glorious and I think he is alluding to this- guess who else built all things? Jesus. So guess who has way more glory than Moses. It's Jesus because he's the builder of all things.

Then notice his last point on why Jesus is greater than Moses. It is because a son outranks a servant. Verse five says this, "Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later 6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son." There is a difference in identity. Moses did a great job. He was a great servant of God. He served the Lord faithfully. He did what he was supposed to do. He helped build God's people. He helped build God's house as a servant but when a servant gets done, a servant goes home. What's the difference in a son? The son who is working, the son who is building, the son who is doing doesn't go home after. He is home. The son is in a whole different league. If you go back in that time, a son is in the father's house. The father owns the stuff and when the father dies who owns the stuff? The sons do. The sons get it all. A son could be working beside a servant, the servant is mending fences and watering sheep and the son is mending fences and watering sheep but eventually the servant goes home. The son is already home. The son actually owns the fence and owns the sheep. He owns it all because he gets the inheritance. Do you see the connection? Jesus is the

son. When Moses got done he went home. Jesus is home. The people of God is his home because he is the one who built them and made them.

Then notice, the next line says this, "Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later." So all that Moses did, all that Moses built, and all that Moses was used for was all in some way pointing forward to another time coming and the preacher is saying that time is now. All of Moses' life was actually about Jesus and even if you go back and run the tape and thin about Moses he had this miraculous birth, right? He was rescued in the Nile through an ark. Well, Jesus also had a miraculous birth. What was it? Virgin born! The angels showed up and wise men came to worship him. In other words, Jesus' was better. Then you have their missions. What did Moses get commissioned to do? To lead the people out of slavery from Pharaoh in Egypt. What did Jesus do? He came to deliver us from slavery to sin and death. He defeated a bigger Pharaoh; Satan himself. Moses got it accomplished through the blood of a lamb but Jesus IS the lamb of God who shed his blood to rescue us out. Moses gave us the Passover. Jesus IS the Passover. It's this whole bigger story! Moses led them through a wilderness up to a mountain and gave them the Word. Jesus IS the Word. He showed up on a mount and he gave them a better word... *Moses has said but now I say unto you..* In other words, I trump Moses because it's always been about me. Yes, Moses parted a Red Sea but Jesus walked on water. Yes, Moses gave them manna from heaven- it was actually God, but it looked like Moses did-but Jesus IS the manna from heaven. He is the bread of life and if you eat of him you'll never hunger again. The whole story of John's gospel is... *Hey, all the things Moses did, Jesus did them way better. Everything Moses did was all about Jesus. Moses' whole life was about proclaiming the Lord to us...* So what is the point? Let go of Moses and hold fast to Christ. Christ is better. Christ is the one whom you should love and hold onto.

Notice how he's going to land the plane for us this morning. He's going to say that we are his house IF. You're the family IF. Verse 6 says this, "And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope." What did Jesus build? He built a house. He built a people. He built a family. We are that house, we are that family IF indeed something happens- if we hold fast to the end. Now we as Baptists don't really love

the if statements. They trouble us because we want to say... *Hold on, I thought it was once saved, always saved. If I'm saved, I'm always saved. Is this not once saved always saved? Does this mean I can lose it?*... And all next week we're going to dive into this because he is going to keep going through this idea of if indeed you remain to the end but I just want to point out that even in this verse it isn't saying if you don't hold on then you'll lose your salvation. No, he's saying if you don't hold on then you never had it. In other words, there is a difference in professing Christ and actually possessing Christ. You can say whatever you want but do you actually have a relationship with Him? Notice what the verse doesn't say. It doesn't say we will become God's house if indeed we hold fast to the end. That would be works based salvation. That would mean it was up to you, you have to make it and you have to do it. He doesn't say if you make it then you'll become God's family and God's house. No, what does he say? You are God's house and you are God's family if indeed you hold fast your confidence and hold fast your hope to the end. In other words, what is his point? True houses make it all the way to the end. True believers make it all the way to the end. So how do you know if you're a true believer and you're truly in Christ? You will make it to the end through every storm and every trial and you will keep holding onto Jesus.

Now I just want to call your attention to this question. What are we holding onto? It says our confidence, our boasting, and our hope. Why do you think he puts it like that? Well, I think he's trying to get us to see that some of us are holding onto a confidence and a hope that isn't actually Jesus and if you're holding onto something that isn't actually Jesus then you'll eventually let it go and you'll prove you weren't the house. So what could that be for them? The Mosaic law. For them it's Judaism. They were holding onto Moses and the law and eventually Moses and the law aren't going to work. They're going to let go or its going to let go of them and it will prove that they weren't God's family. Some of us are holding onto being here at church this morning. You came to church therefore you must be the church. Some of us are holding onto reading the Bible. You read your Bible, you pray, you repent of sin, you talk to God, you say your prayers, you're being good and trying hard. You're holding onto religion. You're holding onto good works. You're holding onto trying hard and believing hard. You're holding onto something other than actual Jesus. Our confidence and hope is something other and it's actually yourself.

Eventually you'll let that go or it will let go of you. Eventually it won't work because self-religion, trying hard, working hard, and doing good aren't sustainable. It'll eventually let you go or you'll let go of it.

So how do we know we're God's house? We're holding onto the right one and when you hold onto Jesus you can't let him go. When you actually get Jesus you can't let him go because you have nowhere else to go. You would never turn loose of Christ because when you see who he is, he truly saves you, and you have a relationship with him something changes. You become the holy brothers and sisters. You become those who have a heavenly calling. You get a new heart and a new spirit. You're a new person. You have a new identity. You are holy now and you're going to keep holding because you are the house. So what is he trying to say? How do you know if you're the house or not? No matter what happens you'll keep holding onto Jesus. If you let him go then you know you were never the house, you were never the people. You never really had Christ because you'll never really let him go if you have him.

So here is my question to you. What are you holding onto? Are you holding onto you? Are you holding onto church? Are you holding onto religion? Are you holding onto family? Are you holding onto something other than Christ? If you are then eventually you'll let it go or it'll let go of you. Or are you holding onto Christ? If you're holding onto Christ then you're a house and what should you do as the house? Consider Jesus. Keep looking at Jesus. Let go of everything else and hold tight to him and by holding tight to him you're going to show that you're truly the house.

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