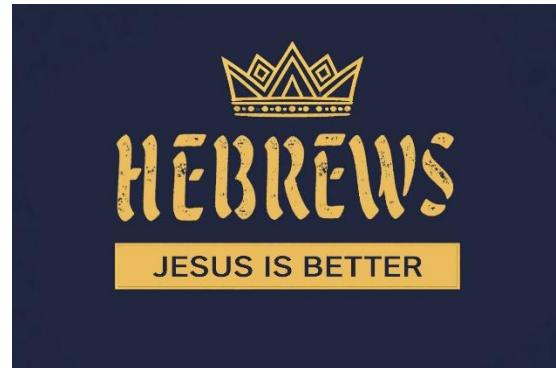


“Jesus is: Better than Moses”

Session 3 – Hebrews 3:1-4:13

Bible Study Method:
Character Study (Moses) &
Narrative Review (Numbers 13-14)



INTRO – 2min

Say It:

In our passage today, the author of Hebrews shows that Jesus is better than Moses. Moses was the most important figure in Jewish history. He was the lawgiver, the deliverer, and the one who spoke to God face-to-face, but the author wants these weary Christ followers us to see that Jesus is better than Moses.

We are also going to look at a dark moment in Israel's history (Numbers 13-14) to understand why the author is so concerned about our hearts becoming hardened.

SECTION 1 – The Builder and the Servant

Hebrews 3:1-6

Read It: Hebrews 3:1-6

Say It:

Notice verse 1. The author asks us to “fix our thoughts on Jesus.” In the original language, this means to observe carefully or detect. We aren't just glancing at Him. We are studying Him to see why He is better than any other leader, religion, ideology, or “safety net” we might trust. For this session, we will compare him to Moses with a character study. In verses 3:3-6, the author uses the analogy of a house. Moses is a servant in the house, but Jesus is the builder of the house. . . the “Son over the house.” Moses was faithful and God used him, but he doesn't even come close to the Hebrews 1:3 description of Jesus as the “exact representation” of God.

Discuss It:

- In practical ways, how do you see people trusting the "servants" (family members, pastors, small group leaders, mentors, religious routines) more than the "Builder"?
- Verse 6 says we are God's house if we hold courageously to our hope, Jesus. What does Jesus offer that Moses' set of rules (Commandments) cannot?

SECTION 2 – The Heart in the Wilderness

Hebrews 3:7-19

Say It:

In this next section, the author refers to an Old Testament story that would have been familiar to these formerly Jewish Christ followers. In verses 7-11, he quotes from Psalm 95. However, Psalm 95 refers to Numbers 13-14, where God brought His people to the edge of the Promised Land (Kadesh Barnea). They sent 12 spies in. Ten came back saying, "The giants are too big," while two (Joshua and Caleb) said, "God is bigger." All but Joshua and Caleb, chose fear over God's promise and wanted to go back to Egypt. That night, they raised their voices and wept. They didn't understand how God could miraculously bring them out of Egypt with plagues, part the Red Sea, and give them manna to eat in the desert, but then hinder them with large people in those lands. Even with all the miracles, they still didn't trust God.

Moses pleaded with God for their forgiveness, but let's read God's response to him in Numbers 14:20-30

Read It: Numbers 14:20-30 & Hebrews 3:7-19

Discuss It:

- In verse 10, God says the people "*always go astray in their hearts.*" In the Numbers story, the people had seen the Red Sea part and manna fall, yet they still didn't trust God. Why is it possible to see God's work and still have a "hard heart?"
- Moses begged God to forgive the people's sin and God forgives, but they still aren't allowed to enter the "rest" of the Promised Land. Moses could ask for forgiveness, but that forgiveness would only last until their next sin. How is Jesus better?

Say It:

Verse 3:12-13 says to avoid sin by encouraging one another daily, because sin is sometimes hard to spot on our own. Sin doesn't always look sinful. It usually presents itself as common sense, protection, or a minor compromise. Like the Israelites, we might justify our unbelief as being practical in the face of "giants". These subtle movements can cause us to drift without realizing it. This is why we need the daily encouragement of others to help us see where we've stopped trusting God's character.

Discuss It:

- **How has someone in this group helped you see a "blind spot" in your life recently?**
- **In verses 18-19, the author links unbelief directly to disobedience. In your own experience, do we usually disobey because we don't *know* the rules, or because we don't trust the character of the one who made them?**

SECTION 3 – The Promise of Rest

Hebrews 4:1-13

Read It: Hebrews 4:1-13

Discuss It:

- **In Chapter 4, "rest" isn't just a nap or a day off; it's the peace of being fully reconciled to God. What are the "Egypts" (old habits, safety nets, or anxieties) that tempt you to give up on God's rest when things get difficult?**
- **Verse 4:12 describes the Word of God as a "double-edged sword" that judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. When was the last time a passage of Scripture made you feel "exposed" or "cut" in a way that actually led to healing?**

DO IT

Choose two options to practice and “do” this week.

- **The "Daily" Text:** Identify one person in this circle. Commit to sending them a short text of encouragement a few times (daily?) this week. This is not a "to-do" list, but a reminder of who Jesus is or who He has created them to be.
- **The Heart Check:** Tonight, before you go to sleep, ask the Holy Spirit: "Is there any area of my life where I am choosing popular opinion or fear over Your promise of rest?"
- **"Fixing Your Thoughts" Morning Habit:** Commit to a "Scripture over Screen" rule for the first 5-15 minutes of the day. Before checking email, news, or social media, read Hebrews 3:1-3 aloud. Specifically, focus on the phrase "Fix your thoughts on Jesus."
- **The "Rest Audit" (Striving vs. Trusting)** Identify one area of your life right now where you're striving . . . trying to control an outcome, earn someone's approval, or manage a situation through sheer effort and anxiety. Every time you feel that "striving" sensation this week, stop for 30 seconds, breathe, and pray: "Jesus, You are the builder of this house, not me. I choose to enter Your rest in this moment."
- **Double-Edged Presence:** Set a timer for 5 minutes of silence. Read Hebrews 4:12-13 slowly, then ask: "Lord, is there a thought or attitude of my heart that is currently out of alignment with Your rest?" Sit in silence and wait for a response. Live authentically at the internal level. Treat the Bible not just as a book to be studied, but as a "living and active" presence that has permission to search and heal you.

PRAY IT:

Jesus, You are the builder of our lives and we are amazed at what you've done. We confess that like the Israelites, we often let the "giants" in our week look bigger than Your promises. Soften our hearts. Give us wisdom and create thoughtful moments to remind us to encourage one another so that none of us drifts away. May we find our true rest in You this week. Amen.