

Sunday, October 9, 2022

## Homeward Bound (Heb. 3:4-6)

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### Intro:

- Since we started Hebrews we have been bouncing around this comparison conversation, whether Jesus to the Angels, or Jesus to Moses. But overall there has been this idea of comparison. While we discussed the purpose, and have shown reasoning to the purpose. I say all that to say this, we are talking about Moses, again.
  - Thought we were done, huh? Bet you the Egyptians thought the same thing, twice!
- But here we are, so let us begin with prayer and the reading of God's word.
  - **Hebrews 3:4-6**
    - (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, 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.
- Right off the back we are giving this vision of a builder, and that God is THE Builder. God is the creator of ALL things and the builder of ALL things. Pretty simple, right? Short and to the point.
- Okay, but why bring Moses back into this?! Why bring Moses back into the conversation
  - Can we not and say we didn't with this Moses guy?! I feel like it can be listening to that one uncle at the family BBQ re-telling about his old high school days of playing the guitar and whoo-ing his future wife.
    - But that is not actually the case, is it?
- See Moses is the best human example of this idea prior to Jesus. We said this over and over again the past two week, might as well repeat for a THIRD week.
  - But in the spirit of repetition, let's take a different approach.
- As American Christians we have a view of Moses that is probably far from accurate (both physically and biblically). Thought no fault of anyone specific person, but this view of Moses comes from being far removed from the initial narrative of Moses.
  - On top of having the narrative of Moses being blasted to us as children in a children's tone and story. Makes it hard to appreciate who this Moses guy was, and we just say, "yeah Moses was a big dude."

- But I do want to focus on this over-arching theme that the author of Hebrews is doing. First, we see that Moses is given his credit as God's servant,
  - **Hebrews 3:5**
    - Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later.
  - **Numbers 12:7**
    - Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.
  - **Exodus 14:31**
    - Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.
  - **Deuteronomy 34:5**
    - So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.
  - **Psalms 105:26**
    - He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
- Moses is never really just named, Moses but it comes with this title, as God's servant. The one whom God choose.
- But, the author of Hebrews goes on and says that Jesus Christ did it better
  - **Hebrews 3:6**
    - 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.
- Did you catch that?
- Moses served in the house of God, as a servant. But Jesus is the Son over the house.
- Whose the house!?
- We ARE
  - This is the path the author of Hebrews is trying to get across. That we are the house of God. That we need to have confidence and boast in the builder of the house. GOD. We are to boast in God.
- This is seriously exciting stuff! We are the house of God. How? Why? Because of JESUS!
- Now, If it was because of Moses, it would have been because of the Law and not Jesus.
- But remember that it is because of Jesus fulfilling the law and satisfying the wrath of God that we are the house of God.

- **Matthew 5:17-20**

- Do not think that I (Jesus) have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- **Luke 23: 44-46**

- It was not about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

- **John 19:28-30**

- After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- Oh the power of those passages! Oh the power of Jesus Christ that he is the one who fulfilled the law and the prophets
- Jesus fulfilling the LAW and Prophecy in his death and his resurrection!
  - There is nothing greater! Nor will there ever be.
- This is a major portion of what the author is showing us by giving us this comparison. That we NEED Jesus!
- "Well we know that! Duh, that is why we are at church." I am sure we all thought this just now. I did while writing it. But Listen, without Jesus, there is only the LAW. But with Jesus, there is grace, mercy, and rest. But why MOSES?!
- I am getting there, but it may take as long as it did the Israelites to walk the desert.
- See the author is using the name of Moses to illustrate a specific point. The life of Moses is similar to that of Jesus but different.
- Moses
  - **Exodus 1:15-16**
    - Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "when you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and

see them on the birthstone, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.”

- Now we see a similar narrative when king Herod tries to kill baby Jesus because Herod feared losing his throne both to the Romans and Jesus.

- **Matthew 2:16**

- Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years or under according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.
- The next similarity we see is how Egypt, though a place of slavery and destruction for Israel, unintentionally saved both the leader of Israel, and also the Messiah.

- **Exodus 2:5-10**

- Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reed by the river bank. And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. When she opened it she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrew’s children.” Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl and went and called the child’s mother. And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because”, she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

- We see also that Egypt saves Jesus by allowing for a place for Jesus’ family to come too

- **Matthew 2:13**

- Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the LORD appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”
- Finally, we see that both Moses and Jesus were called and sent by God, while on this Earth.
- **Exodus 3:7-10** - (Moses at the burning bush)

- Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of the land to a good and broad land, flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Kitties, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and now I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel out of Egypt.”
- Much like Moses, Jesus was called out by God right after his baptism
  - **Mark 1:9-11**
    - In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”
- But, as we dive deeper into the narrative of Moses, we see that Moses’ purpose was to take the nation of Israel to the promise land. A place to rest and finally call home. Filled with milk and honey. But when the nation finally got to the promise land, they were afraid because the habitants of the land were strong and their cities were large. The nation of Israel after everything God had done, was still more afraid of man than they were of God. After all the signs, all the miracles, and all the victories. They feared the hand of man, and not the hand of God.
  - **Numbers 14:1-6**
    - Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! OR would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is that LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?” And they said to one another, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”
  - But there was a man in this narrative, Joshua, who felt differently about this, and it seriously speaks volumes in the context of what we have been hearing and reading. Pay attention to what he says.
    - **Numbers 14:5-9**
      - Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “The land, which we passed through to spy it

out, is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.”

- Joshua is responding in response that should be our own, “for they are bread for us.” Joshua may be referencing the manna that fell from heaven while in the desert. But he is reminding the people of Israel that God provided the bread, and that God took the bread away. Much like he will do here with those who they fear.

**- Isaiah 40:28-31**

- Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
- As the people of Israel bicker back and forth, God is sitting there waiting for the people to finally cross over into the land that he promised would be theirs. A land flowing with milk and honey, a place to lay their head and finally rest. If they just choose and trusted Him. After everything He has done for this nation, they still do not trust Him enough to handle the day-to-day, and immediate problems. The fear of death, the fear of man still lingers over the fear of God.
- Church, understand that taking the promise land was not going to be easy. It was not going to be a cake walk, but it was their land promised by God. God was going to take care of them, provide for them and give them a place to rest, after 40 years of wandering.
- But is that not the point of our passage? Hebrews 3:6b?

**• Hebrews 3:6b**

- And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.
- Church, the author of Hebrews used the name of Moses to get a point across that the Israelites failed to understand back in the days of Moses. Trust in the LORD your God. God is telling you to come inside. Stopping chasing, and watching the storm and come inside the house and rest. The storm can be intense and scary, but come inside because God is greater than your storm.
- North Morro, your rest is coming, but know where your rest comes from. Your rest is at the feet of Jesus.
- Your rest does come at the feet of your weekend, or when you clock-out at work, or when the kids go to sleep. No, church; your rest is in Jesus Christ.

- When hearing the name of Moses, hopefully now , you think of everything he did to try to get the people to promise land. But even Moses failed because it was not him who led the people into the land. But it was Joshua. Joshua understood what was at stake. Joshua knew where his strength came from.
  - This is not take away what Moses did but give a better reasoning as to why Jesus Christ, the Messiah is a better option to follow.
- Now what you may not realize is that the author of Hebrews is preparing us for what is to come ahead in his letter by using Moses as an example.
  - He is saying, “He Moses was cool and all; but Moses didn’t make it. You know who did, though? You know who not only made it to the promise land but CREATED the promise land, Jesus!” That was the point of Chapters 1 and 2. To show us that JESUS made it! JESUS created it! JESUS made it to the promise land and brought us with him! Jesus is bringing us home!
    - We can finally rest at the feet of Jesus. We can lay down and not worry. We can finally rest.
- **Psalms 4:8**
  - In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.
- **Matthew 11:28-30**
  - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
- **John 3:16**
  - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- **John 14:27**
  - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
- **John 16:7**
  - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.
- **John 16:33**
  - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.
- **Mark 6:30-44** (No slide - too long).

- The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.
- North Morro, Brothers, Sisters. Jesus offers REST, Jesus offers HELP. Jesus FEEDS and loves. This is who will lead you into the promise land. This is one who will lead you home. This is one who will lead you into rest.
- Church, the promise land for the Israelites was a place on earth that God promised, but because of their doubt and their failures they did not enter. But Church let me come before to tell you- God has a home for you, for me. He is the Builder of ALL things, Hebrews 3:4 tells us this, and we see this all throughout the Old Testament and even in the New Testament.
- North Morro, brothers, and sisters. Our God is willing and ready as he was with the Israelites, and while for them it was man who was not willing. While for the Israelites in the days of Moses, It was man who was more afraid of man than that of the Builder. It was man, who would rather go back to slavery than to freedom.
- I ask you, what home are you choosing to sleep in? Are you going back to your Egypt and choosing slavery over freedom? Whom do you fear, the Builder or the bread? What master, what slavery are you choosing?
- Let me offer you hope. Let me offer you a chance to come to the Father and be freed from your bondage of sin. Freed from you life of slavery. Church, God is waiting.
- **Luke 11:20 (Prodigal Son)**
  - And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."



- That is the God we serve. The God that does not judge you when you return, but he comes to you and grabs you and says, "I love you."
- Moses was named because he was "drawn out of the water." Peter almost drowned in the water but Jesus pulled him out. Church let Jesus pull you out of the water. Let Jesus give you rest. Let Jesus work within you.
- Come back to Jesus. Come back to the Father. Let him show you rest.

Let us pray.