

# JESUS IS BETTER: letter to the Houstonians

Sermon Study Guide | Part Two: Better than Moses | 9/17/17 | @thestoryhouston @pastorerichuffman

## PURPOSE OF THIS SERMON SERIES

1. To become more familiar with the Bible through a study of Hebrews
2. To convey the stark differences between the Gospel of Jesus and religions of men
3. To inspire people to believe Jesus (as opposed to just “believing in Jesus”)

## IT'S A MIRACLE!

1. Think of something you might call a miracle. Where have you seen miracles happen in the real world, and to what, or to whom, do you give credit for the miraculous?

## KEY TEXT: HEBREWS 3:1-6

Therefore, brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

## WHO WAS MOSES AND WHY DOES HE MATTER TODAY?

- No historical figure matters more to Jewish people than Moses. He stood up to Pharaoh in Egypt, led the people out of slavery, administered community life in the wilderness, delivered the Ten Commandments, wrote much of the first five books of the Bible, and served as the spokesman for the Hebrew people before God.
- By suggesting Jesus is greater than Moses, the writer of Hebrews challenges his audience to reconsider some of their most sacred assumptions. For generations they looked up to Moses as the founder and father of their faith. Here, the author calls the people out for valuing man more than God and prioritizing religion over truth.

## KEY QUESTIONS

1. What (or who) does the image of God's house represent?
2. How have we (Christians) gotten the notion of “God's house” wrong in the past?
3. By putting Jesus on the same plane as Moses, the people conflated Creator with creation, giving Moses too much credit (as he was just a man) and giving Jesus too little (as he was God incarnate). Do you think we ever do the same? What are some of the ways people today put too much hope in men and too little hope in God?

## GOING DEEPER

1. Legendary filmmaker Ingmar Bergman was the son of a strict Lutheran pastor. He was not a very religious man, but he once said, *“It is my opinion that art loses its basic creative drive the moment it is separated from worship. It severed an umbilical cord and now lives its own sterile life, generating and degenerating itself. In former days the artist remained unknown and his work was to the glory of God. He lived and died without being more or less important than other artisans; “eternal values,” “immortality” and “masterpiece” were terms not applicable in his case. The ability to create was a gift.”* What do you think about this connection between art, worship, and the glory of God?
2. What does it mean to you that, instead of dwelling in buildings, God has chosen to reside in us?
3. What do you think the author means with “the hope in which we glory” (v.6)?
4. The Hebrew people were treated Moses as if he was God, and Jesus as if he was just a man. How are you tempted to do the same? What (or who) do you tend to prioritize ahead of your relationship with God? What do you plan to do about it this week?