

## Better than Moses Hebrews 3

Jesus is better than anything our world has to offer. The author of Hebrews uses Moses as a warning against unfaithfulness and as an encouragement for believers to see God's grace in the midst of discipline.

**Intro:** My wife and I welcomed our first child into the world 3 months ago, so I really appreciated this Super Bowl commercial... Dove "Dad" Commercial (Video) – What better way could there be of bringing together the joys of fatherhood and soap?

- This commercial is incredible in its ability to put on a **great show** while pushing its own **selfish agenda**. It's saying one thing yet doing another, and **we ALL do this!**

**The Truth is...**

- We **compliment** others because we want them to like us; We do something "**selfless**" expecting something in return; We claim to believe one standard while we practice something completely different. **We're hypocrites.**
- We **don't want to be hypocrites**, but sometimes it's just **too hard to meet our own expectations and easier to fake it**, so we let ourselves slide "just this once" over and over again until we find ourselves **being unfaithful followers of the Lord.**
- Unfortunately, our God promises to **discipline unfaithfulness**. Fortunately, our God is **gracious even in His discipline**, and He has graciously shown us how to **catch unfaithfulness in its early stages** so we can avoid requiring His discipline

**This Morning...**

- We're in Hebrews Chapter 3, where the author uses Moses as **both warning and encouragement**. We're **warned against his hypocrisy and unfaithfulness**. But we're **encouraged** when even in the **midst of discipline, God pours out Grace**

**God's Standard – v1-6a**

- **Read: 3.1-2** – Remember **Context** to understand **Content**
  - **V1 - Believers** – Jesus is object of **worship**; basis of **identity**
  - **V2 - Jewish** – loved Moses SO MUCH
    - **Ex: We love Reveille – (Pic) She's a lady & a hero** who deserves to be buried outside Kyle Field with her own scoreboard – **I came in thinking it was odd, left thinking it wasn't enough**
- **Read: 3.3-6a** - The author **compares Jesus to Moses** in **Position** and **Performance**
  - **Position:** Moses was the **servant**, Jesus is the **Son**
  - **Performance:** They're both initially faithful, but the author is actually about to describe **how Moses failed** not to make him look bad, but to warn us against his mistakes
- **Faithfulness is built over time** (ex: don't **propose** on 1<sup>st</sup> date) and **so is Unfaithfulness** (ex: **adultery** follows other sexual sin; major **fraud** follows minor offences)
  - The author uses Moses to point out the **symptoms of Unfaithfulness** so it doesn't build & bring God's discipline

**Our Failing Hope**

- **Read: V6** – The author is encouraging the readers to hold fast to their hope because unfaithfulness starts with losing hope
  - **Biblical Hope – Eager & Certain expectation of the future** – so what's our Hope?

- **Read: Hebrews 6.19-20** – Our Hope is in Jesus; He’s the **Anchor of our souls** – because when a storm hits, you need an Anchor
  - **Ex: Baby’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Night handout** gave Susan and myself hope when Charlotte came out of her 1<sup>st</sup> 24hr daze... roaring
  - **Moses & the Gang** - lost hope without water in Meribah and lost hope with big baddies in Kadesh Barnea
- **App: Remember Scripture in the Storm**

#### Our Complaining

- **Read: v7-8** – Without hope, our **hearts harden** towards God, so we **Grumble & Complain** about our circumstances
  - **Ex: Kyle Field bleachers** feel a lot more uncomfortable when we’re losing the game - “I don’t WANNA pass it back!”
  - **Read: Exodus 17.1-3** – Moses & the Gang just got **Heaven bread** – They are complaining while snacking on MANNA
- **App:** A heart filled with **Gratitude** has no room for **Grumbling**

#### Our Questioning & Rebellion

- **Read: v9** – **Without future confidence or present satisfaction**, we will **question God’s authority & rebel**
  - **Ex:** Friend’s daughter didn’t want to go to bed, so when her dad told her to go potty, she sat on the edge of the tub. Dad told her that wasn’t right, so she said “I always go potty here!”
  - **Read: Numbers 20.8-11** – God tells Moses to speak to the rock, but Moses yells at the gang & hits it instead
- **App:** We need to **remember** rebellion has **consequences...**

#### God’s Discipline

- **Read: v10-11** – God’s discipline was **denying the Israelites Rest** in the Promised Land, which is an **experience of God’s blessing**
  - **Why not Eternal Salvation?**
- **Read: Numbers 20.12** – God **denied Moses** that same Rest, so does that mean Moses lost out on eternal salvation?
  - **Read: Matt 17.1-3** – Thanks to the transfiguration, we know for certain that **Moses’ salvation was secure**. Even better, in the midst of His discipline, God still **showed grace to Moses** by allowing him in the Promised Land after all **thanks to Jesus**
- **App: You could be headed towards or currently experiencing discipline**, but remember that God **disciplines us out of love** & He still **provides grace** in the midst of the discipline!
- Of course, **while our salvation is secure, our relationship can become strained or damaged**
  - **Ex: Charlotte is always my daughter**, even when she screams in my face on a regular basis. But if she continues to scream in my face on the reg 10 yrs from now, our relationship might become strained

#### God’s Solution

- **Read: v12-13** – We need to be in **Christian community** – We avoid hypocrisy and unfaithfulness by joining men and women who will **call us out & encourage us** towards faithfulness!
  - We’ll never completely **avoid sin and unfaithfulness**, but we can **catch it early**

**App:** You need **Christian community with honesty and transparency** – starts at home, continues with **Men/Women Growth Groups & Home Groups**

[1] 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.

[7] Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,  
“Today, if you hear his voice,

[8] do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
on the day of testing in the wilderness,  
[9] where your fathers put me to the test  
and saw my works for forty years.

[10] Therefore I was provoked with that generation,  
and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;  
they have not known my ways.’

[11] As I swore in my wrath,  
‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

[12] Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. [13] But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

(Hebrews 3:1-13 ESV)

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

(Exodus 17:1-3 ESV)

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

(Matthew 17:1-3 ESV)

“Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.”

(Numbers 20:8-12 ESV)

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

(Hebrews 6:19-20 ESV)