

Text: Hebrews 3:1-6

Theme: Greater One

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the Epistle of Hebrews the third chapter verses one through six.

Boys and Girls, I pray that you are still doing well this week. Do you know what this math symbol is? This is a greater than sign. It points to whatever number is greater between two numbers. You can remember it by thinking of it as a really hungry crocodile that desires to eat the larger number. For example, which number is larger five or ten? Ten is, so the crocodile wants to eat that one. Which number is greater ten or fifty? Fifty, so the crocodile wants to eat that one. In our text for today, the author of Hebrews makes the comparison between Moses and Jesus. Which one of those is greater? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

Moses was great

Which would you choose as greater? In a sense, this is a hard choice because both are indeed great. It is not a question of who is more faithful. Both are declared as faithful in all they do. Moses was indeed great. In Jewish tradition, Moses was regarded as “both a king and a lawgiver, and a high priest and a

prophet, and ... in each office he displayed the most eminent wisdom and virtue” (Philo *Moses* 2.3; Yonge 1993:491).¹ Before God, Moses represented the house or the people of Israel as a whole. On Mount Sinai, when God wants to destroy the house of Israel for their blatant idolatry with the golden calf. Moses stands in the breach and begs for mercy on behalf of the people. Even when God tells Moses to stand aside and He would make Moses like Abraham into a great nation, Moses reminds God of His promises to Israel and to have mercy upon them. Moses was faithful as a servant of the Lord. He did what the Lord told him to do. Moses led the people of Israel out of slavery in the house of Egypt, through the waters of the Red Sea. He wrote down all the words of the Lord, gave Israel the Law in how they were to act as the Lord’s people. He bore with their complaints again and again though the wanderings in the desert, eventually leading them to the land promised to them by God. Moses was faithful as an apostle. Moses wrote the first prophecy about Jesus, Gen. 3:15. He wrote about Abraham, the Father of believers, Gen. 12-25. Paul has much to say about Abraham in Romans 4 and Galatians 3. The book of Leviticus, especially chapter 16, has much to say about the Ceremonial Law which prefigured Christ. Numbers. 24:1 has a brilliant prophecy about Jesus, where Moses says that there will arise a greater one akin to Moses.

¹ Michaels, R. J. (2009). [Commentary on Hebrews](#). In *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Hebrews* (Vol. 17, p. 354). Tyndale House Publishers.

Great Moses Sinner, same with us

As great as Moses was, he was still a sinner. As we read in our Old Testament lesson, he saw the Promised Land from the top of the mountain. However, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his sin. As great as Moses was, he could not save himself. The same is true of us. As great as we think we may be, we cannot save ourselves. On our own we would be barred from the promised land of heaven. If one sin was enough to bar one as great as Moses, how much more our many grievous sins. All of those times when we have lied, cheated, stolen, coveted the things of others? Again and again. We would be rightly barred from even thinking about entering into heaven.

Jesus is greater

Thus, why we, as well as Moses, desperately need to cling to the One that Moses points forward to, Jesus Christ our Lord. As great as Moses was, Jesus is greater by far. There is no question about it at all.

Moses was faithful as a servant of the Lord, as an Apostle, a sent one. Jesus is faithful not as a mere servant but as the only begotten Son of the Father. As the Son, He rules and reigns over His church for our good. Jesus is faithful as an Apostle and a Priest. In Jesus we see the functions of Moses' apostolic office and Aaron's priestly office combined. As the sent one of God, Jesus is sent to do what we cannot do, to save us from our sins. Jesus willingly, and perfectly, fulfills the will of the Father. He takes on our human flesh, living a perfect life in our place. As

God in the flesh, He reveals to us His power and glory before setting His face towards Jerusalem. There, He bears the punishment of all of our sins in our place, suffers, bleeds, and dies for us. Rising again from the dead, as our Great High Priest, He fulfills every need that we have. Heaven is not barred to us but is fully open for us. He gives to us every blessing under heaven. Blessings that are realized here and now in and through His church. We look not to ourselves for salvation, but we fix our eyes on the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Here is the real superior glory that far exceeds all others, God Himself reconciled a sinful and fallen world to Himself through His Son.

Because of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are made members of God's household. This happens in the waters of Holy Baptism, where the Lord comes to us, washes us clean, and His Holy Spirit creates saving faith in us. He calls us His dear beloved children. He changes our motivation, not for things upon this earth but for things heavenly. Jesus calls us to a life fulfilled in heaven, in the age to come. He gives to us faith, a faith that is not weak and timid. Rather, our faith is courage, exultation, and expectation. We have courage knowing what the One greater than Moses has done for us. That Jesus has fulfilled the entirety of the Law all for us. We rejoice over the fact that every single one of our sins is forgiven, not by the blood of animals and sacrifices, but by the One great sacrifice of the holy, precious blood, shed for us upon the cross. Our faith is one of expectation, as we await that glorious Last Day when there will be a new heaven and a new earth and we will be with our Lord forever and ever.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.