

“WHY JESUS IS DIFFERENT?”

Hebrews 3:1-6

Message 1592

One basic longing everyone has is to find peace with God, the TRUE God. I know there are many people still searching to find out who God is. Occasionally we get a letter from somebody, with a question like this, “Who is God?”

Many try through various means to find the true God and to find peace with Him, but without success. I’m glad to tell you, God knew that we would struggle and struggle but never find peace by ourselves.

God took steps to prepare the way so that we can find peace with Him. The greatest step He ever took was when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Every honest student of history knows Jesus lived. And a careful study of the record will reveal that He is different.

WHY IS JESUS DIFFERENT? We shall find the answer in Hebrews 3:1-6.

- 1. Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*
- 2. Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.*
- 3. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.*
- 4. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*
- 5. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;*
- 6. But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

Why is Jesus different? Let us give careful consideration to several clear **ANSWERS** to our question.

THE DEFINITE COMMISSION is a basic answer to the difference of Jesus. I want you to pay close attention especially to the names that are given to Him in the first verse of this Scripture. He is called here the Apostle, High Priest, and Christ Jesus. Let’s look more closely at those three names.

The word apostle comes from the Greek language where it means to be sent with a mission or for a purpose. Here Jesus is called the Apostle.

He is also called the High Priest of our profession, or our confession. Now when we go to the Old Testament we find in the book of Exodus that God told Moses to appoint a high priest. The high priest had no choice in the matter. He was appointed by the divine choice. That’s the significance of Jesus being called a high priest here. Later in the book of Hebrews we shall learn more about the high priest, appointed by divine choice.

Christ Jesus, those two names are very important. The word Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah, which means anointed one. The name Jesus has this meaning--Saviour. So here is one sent with a mission, appointed by divine choice, to be the anointed Saviour. I call that a definite commission. He was appointed. It was not a personal choice.

You remember how Moses was selected and appointed by the Lord to go from the desert of Midian into Egypt to bring out God's people, the Jews? He said, "Send somebody else." But God said, "No, I have chosen you."

Then I remember that in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus prayed the night before His crucifixion, He said, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done."

Both Moses and Jesus were appointed not by personal choice, but by divine choice. So Jesus is different because of His definite commission.

THE DIRECT COMPARISON further illumines the difference of Jesus. The writer of this book makes the comparison between Moses and Jesus. He says Moses was faithful in all his house, but that Jesus is counted worthy of more glory than Moses because he who has built the house has more glory than the house.

Let's think about Moses, known in Biblical history as the lawgiver. He is the one who received the law from God, and without doubt, everybody will acknowledge that Moses was a great man. He was well learned. The historical record tells us that he was brought up in the house of Pharaoh, right in the capital, right in the palace. Ancient Egypt was the center of civilization. So he was learned in all the learning of the Egyptians. Moses was used of God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, one thousand four hundred years before Christ.

Here we have Jesus and Moses being compared. We are told that Jesus has more glory than Moses, just like the one who built the house has more honor than the house.

Now Jesus was also a great man and an effective teacher. Those of his day said, "Never a man spoke like this man." And ancient Palestine was the center of revelation. Yes, God moved among His people in Palestine. Jesus was used of God to lead mankind to peace.

Jesus is different because He stands out above Moses. The comparison here is made that Moses is the house and Jesus is the builder of the house. I want you to notice especially verse 4, "For every house is built by someone; but he who built all things is God." So when you make the direct comparison between Jesus and Moses, you find that Jesus is different, because He stands out above Moses, though Moses was a great man.

THE DIVINE QUALIFICATION is the third way in which Jesus is different. Again we go back to make a comparison between Moses and Jesus, as the writer does. And he says that Moses was faithful in all his house as a servant. We are told also that his work was necessary for what was going to follow, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken afterward. Moses was very important. Moses' work was like the foundation of a house. Without the foundation you can't have a house. It's very important to have a good, sturdy foundation if you expect the house to last any time at all. And Moses was a faithful servant.

But further in this text, it is said that Christ was faithful as a Son, over His own house. Now there is a great deal of difference between being a servant and being a son: a son has all the rights of the father. The servant may have rights that have been bestowed upon him by his master, but he is never the son, never.

But here Jesus is a faithful Son over His own house, and we who believe are that house. You see how hope and faith secure us for the future in that house, "If we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

This divine qualification as Son puts Jesus in a considerably different place from Moses, don't you see? So Jesus is different, for He has the divine qualification of Son.

We know Jesus lived and is different. How is He different? He is different in these three ways: the definite commission, the direct comparison, and the divine qualification. Our hope must rest in Him. We are His house if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. We focus our faith upon Jesus, the Son of God, our High Priest, and Saviour. Is He your Saviour?