

Hebrew 3:1-6; Matthew 7:24-29

LESSON: THE BUILDER OF THE HOUSE — October 9, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

CHRIST BECAME MAN'S GREAT DELIVERER (Hebrews 2:14-16). God's children are human beings made of flesh and blood, so, Jesus Christ delivered man by willingly becoming a man. He delivered us by dying for us, for only a human could. Christ suffered, even to death in order to destroy the power and fear of death. Jesus Christ is the only One who could die and break and destroy the power of the devil, who had the power over death (**2:14**). The fear that man had, Jesus Christ delivered man from the fear of death (**2:15**). Jesus did not take on the nature of angels but took on the seed of Abraham freeing us from the bondage of the flesh (**2:16**).

CHRIST BECAME MAN'S GREAT HIGH PRIEST (Hebrews 2:17-18). Jesus Christ was made man that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest. He was behoved, constrained, and moved in order to sympathize and feel for man. He wanted to go through all the trials and temptations of man to experience all of life as a man experienced it. Therefore, Jesus Christ would make reconciliation for the sins of the people, which meant to become our propitiation—a sacrifice to make a covering, satisfaction, payment, or appeasement for sin. He would atone for our sins; make things right between God and man. Therefore, He would represent His people before God (**2:17**). Jesus Christ would succor; come to the aid of those who are tried and tempted. How good is it to know that Christ was fully man, experiencing what we experience and is able to provide the comfort we need? (**2:18**)

Now, as we shift to **chapter 3** it will reveal the truth of Christ's superiority over Moses. Three points are developed within these verses: First, both Moses and Christ have faithfully completed their assigned works (**3:1-2**). Second, whereas Moses was apart of God's house (program), Christ is the Builder (**3:3-4**). And lastly, whereas Moses was a servant in the house, Christ is the Son over it (**3:5-6**).

LESSON: I. JESUS AS THE BUILDER Hebrews 3:1-6

3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;— The author makes it clear that he regards his Jewish readers as believers by addressing them as "*holy brethren partakers of the heavenly calling* (set apart as God's own possession sharing in the heavenly calling)." They were to consider; fix their thoughts on Jesus as the Apostle and High Priest whom they professed to follow. These titles show His superior ministry. Under the Old Covenant of the Law (the Old Testament), Moses held the office of an apostle—to serve as God's representative or ambassador communicating God's Word to His people. Aaron held the office of high priest—man's representative before God. But under the New Covenant of grace (the New Testament) Jesus holds both offices. His position is permanent!

3:2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. The writer wanted the holy brethren to see the faithfulness of Jesus in His appointment. John 6:38 says "*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*" Jesus was sent and He was faithful in

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His appointment. Revelation 19:11 confers to the end: *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."*

- Jesus was faithful as the Apostle of God: the One who represented and spoke of God; the One who revealed and showed us exactly what God is like and how we can become acceptable to God; in proclaiming God's message of salvation to the world.
- Jesus was faithful as the High Priest of God: the One who became the propitiation for our sins; the One who represents God to us and represents us to God; the One who stands between God and us.

"Moses was also faithful in all his house" simply means *"in every circumstance"*—that is, in the House of God. Whatever he was told to do, he did as a servant, faithfully.

- Moses was God's Prophet. He guided the people in God's Word, so the people might bring their cases to God (Exo.18:19). He taught them the ordinances and laws, to obey the way they must work (walk), and what they must do (Exo.18:20).
- Moses is instructed by God to get the people to constructing the building of the portable *"Tabernacle"* and the *"Ark of the Covenant"* (Exo.25-31) where God's presence dwells—God's house that He may dwell among His people on earth.

3:3 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. Jesus has been found worthy of greater glory (honor). To the Jewish people Moses was a great hero. He brought their ancestors, the Israelites from Egyptian bondage to the Promised Land. He wrote the first five books of the Old Testament, and was the Prophet through whom God gave the moral and ceremonial law. Christ is described as the One *"who hath builded the house."* Therefore, Christ the Builder is superior, in contrast to Moses who is spoken of as part of the house. The person who builds a house gets more honor than the house. Though the work of Moses and Christ were similar in many ways, Christ holds a place far above Moses.

3:4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. Every house has a builder, but God is the one who builds all things. Verse 3 *"this man"* who is Jesus...built the house having more honor than the house, and this verse says God is the builder of all things making them One. Jesus is being declared to be God; the Son to be as much God as God the Father.

3:5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;— Moses was faithful to God's calling, which was not only to deliver Israel, but also to prepare the way for the Messiah. Moses is described as a faithful servant in that he bore witness *"of those things which were to be spoken after"* (in the future; foretelling the coming of Christ) Deut.18:15, 18.

3:6 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. *"But, Christ as a Son over his own house"* is far greater than the servant in the house. We are His house—the temple in which He dwells by His Spirit. His continual dwelling in the house is conditional—*"if we hold fast the confidence...rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."* The picture is that of a ship holding its course for port despite the storm and turbulences of life. The ship holds fast until it reaches the end. If it did not, then it would never reach port.

- Our confidence is in the hope of salvation—that the promise of heaven and of eternal life is true.
- Our joy is in the hope of salvation—the glorious hope of living forever and all the other promises of God are so wonderful that joy should always fill our hearts regardless of circumstances.

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II. JESUS AS THE FOUNDATION Matthew 7:24-29

7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:— The message of the Messiah on the Sermon on the Mount continues (5:1-7:27). Verse 1 of the seventh chapter begins with "*Judge not*", and now we're here in this verse that begins with "*Therefore*"—meaning, "*this is your alternative, whoever hears these instructions and do them will be wise.*" If they didn't want to follow these instructions, then they are foolish and you won't be able to be a good builder. Oh yeah, you can build, but, It won't be stable. Jesus wants us to know that a wise man builds his house upon a rock. That rock is Jesus! The alternative is to be wise in your building.

7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. Every person has a house to build, a life to build. Once in the world we cannot escape the fact—we are building our lives. How we build our lives determines our eternal destiny. When a wise man builds a house, he...:

1. Hears instructions 2. Obeys the instructions 3. Selects the right foundation 4. Counts the cost.
Therefore, **when**, not **if** the rain, the floods, and the wind descend down and began to beat upon his house, it will not fall! Why? –

- Because its foundation was upon the rock. Christ is the rock!
- Because God accepts us in Christ.
- Because God promises to provide the necessities of life.
- Because God promises to work out all things together for good to those who build wisely.
- Because God blesses those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- Because Christ promises joy to those who hear and receive the things He said.
- Because the Lord promises to deliver the believer into His heavenly kingdom when the believer passes from this world into the next!

7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:— The opposite happens when **we hear but won't obey**, and therefore is deemed like a foolish man. So, when a foolish man build a house, he built it on sand:

1. He heard instructions 2. Didn't obey the instructions 3. Selected the wrong foundation
4. Didn't count the cost

Now, this is dangerous when you hear the instructions from the **Master Builder** and still not obey. We are in our churches on Sundays or Wednesdays and have not been influenced by the Word of God. This means we've heard how to build a house, but still choose the short cuts; still choose the wrong material, and still not count the cost of not choosing wisely.

- There is the sand of the world, the material possessions and wealth of the world.
- There is the sand of the flesh, the pleasures that stimulate and satisfy it.
- There is the sand of fame and recognition and the pride of it.

Even religion (rituals) can be sinking sand. Therefore, any life built upon sand is doomed to collapse. There is no middle ground. There is only the rock. Yes, some even profess and respect the Master Builder, yet they go right on building their own way, as they will.

7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. You might as well look for the rain, and the floods, and the wind to come down and beat upon your house. All are susceptible to the storms of life no matter the severity.

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Every man's work will be made manifest. It rains on the just and unjust. But, by building upon sand which has no solid foundation, you suffer the consequences—the house will fall, and it will be a great fall.

7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:— No one has ever taught like Jesus. After Jesus ended and the people heard what He had to say, it really brought an impact of amazement at His doctrine. They had never heard such sayings before. Astonishing the people was not what Jesus was after, for there is a difference between being astonished and doing what Jesus says; between professing and true discipleship. He was after their lives; their commitment; a change of behavior, and obedience to God's Will.

7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. It didn't matter if there were 50 or 500 people listening, Jesus still taught the same way—with authority.

1. He spoke with a tone that sounded authoritative.
2. He spoke as the true Messiah.
3. He spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In contrast, the Scribes didn't speak or teach with authority. It was very unusual, for they not only had the Holy Scriptures, they also had the oral traditions and the influence of their religion and their personal commitment to it, but, there was a problem. It's twofold:

1. They were always calling upon other authorities—always referring to the source of their statements losing their audience. The Scribes were the copyists of the Law and theologians of their day.
2. They seldom elaborated or illustrated. This made their messages or lessons flat, dull, and uninteresting. They had to rely upon tradition for their authority, while Jesus was His own authority.

SUMMARY:

The author makes it clear that his readers are "*holy brethren partakers of the heavenly calling*" professing Christ Jesus. They are to consider and fix their thoughts upon Jesus as the Apostle and High Priest. Jesus holds both offices. His position is permanent! He is faithful in His appointment to God even as Moses faithfully served in God's house. Christ is described as the One "*who hath built the house.*" Therefore, Christ, the Builder is superior, in contrast to Moses who is spoken of as part of the house. The person who builds a house gets more honor than the house. Every house has a builder, but God is the one who builds all things. Moses is described as the faithful servant speaking of the things God would speak. Christ, the Son over His own house is far greater than the servant in the house. Jesus Christ was true as a Son over the house of God. We are His house, if we keep our confidence and boldly trust in Him to the end (**Hebrews 3:1-6**).

Jesus' continues His Sermon on the Mount. Whoever hears God's instructions and do them will be compared to a wise man who builds his house on a rock. So, when the rain, the floods, and the wind descend down and began to beat upon his house, it will not fall because it was founded upon a rock! However, the one who hears God's instructions, but obey them not, then they are compared to a foolish man building his house upon sand. The rain, the floods, and the wind will come down and beat upon his house, and it will greatly fall. Jesus ends His Sermon and the people are astonished at His doctrine because He taught with such authority in contrast to the Scribes who did not teach with authority, but just oral tradition losing their audience (**Matthew 7:24-29**).