

~~Better.~~ Better Shepherd

Hebrews 3:1-6 NIV: Therefore, holy 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.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

In the days of the early church, people struggled and suffered as they tried to move from the familiar, tangible sacrificial system of the Old Testament to the invisible, faith-based system of the New Testament. Many new believers were tempted to just return to the old ways - but the writer of Hebrews gave them encouragement to learn and grow and allow their faith in Jesus to deepen because He is a "Better Shepherd" even than Moses in every way. As we study this passage, let's allow the eyes of our hearts to truly see that Jesus is our Shepherd and that we need to draw closer to Him when we face times of struggle and suffering.

1A) In Hebrews 3:1, how did the writer of Hebrews convey the message that he was writing to the church as family members?

1B) What specific advice did the writer give to believers in verse 1 and why was this important?

1C) PERSONAL: When you experience trouble, how do you deal with feelings of disillusionment?

2A) Use the following verses to describe the difference in the work and presence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

Judges 6:34:

Acts 2:3-4:

2B) How did Jesus describe the Holy Spirit in John 14:17?

3A) According to Exodus 3:1, what job was Moses doing when the Lord appeared to him in the burning bush?

3B) How was God able to use this work experience of Moses in helping the Israelites in their Exodus from Egypt?

Read John 10:14-18:

4A) List the important points Jesus revealed in this passage concerning His Work and His Authority.

4B) PERSONAL: How does this list help you understand that Jesus was a “Better Shepherd” than Moses in His Position and in His Performance?

5) What other comparisons are given between Moses and Jesus in Hebrews 3:2-3?

Read Hebrews 3:4-6:

6A) What position did Moses hold in the house compared to the position of Jesus?

6B) PERSONAL: Why does the position of each in the “house” reveal that Jesus is the “Better Shepherd?”

7) PERSONAL: How do the following verses give you encouragement to know that people who believe in Jesus are now the “house” of God?

Ephesians 2:19-21:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17:

1 Peter 2:4-5:

ACT: Jesus told us that in this world we will have trouble, but when trouble comes, are we drawn closer to God or do we have a tendency to draw away? Like the early church, we can be encouraged by knowing that Jesus is a “Better Shepherd” than Moses was 1) because of His Position as the Son of God - not just his servant and 2) that Jesus’ Performance was perfect and sinless, while Moses was just a man who like us was an imperfect sinner. Then 3) the Purpose of Jesus was to change the system from having a Temple for the people to the people actually being the Temple. Plus as His Temple, we can Glorify God with our bodies and our attitudes as we face and deal with the difficulties and troubles of life!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe God as the Shepherd of His people.

Monday:

Genesis 49:22-24 NIV

Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall. With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,

Tuesday:

Psalms 23:1-4 NIV

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Wednesday:

Psalms 28:8-9 NIV

The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Thursday:

John 10:16 NIV

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Friday:

Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Saturday:

1 Peter 5:4 NIV

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Sunday:

Revelation 7: 15-17 NIV

Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

