

1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEBREWS 3:1-6</b> <b>Consider Jesus</b></p> <p>July 4, 1954 Florence Chadwick <a href="https://medium.com/emphasis/youre-closer-than-you-think-a-story-about-long-distance-swimmer-florence-chadwick-99f9cf360b9f">https://medium.com/emphasis/youre-closer-than-you-think-a-story-about-long-distance-swimmer-florence-chadwick-99f9cf360b9f</a></p> <p>In 1952, a woman named Florence Chadwick decided to attempt the 26-mile swim between the California coastline and Catalina Island. First woman to swim English Channel. During her televised swim Chadwick traveled with a team whose job it was to keep an eye out for sharks and be prepared to assist in the event of unexpected cramps, injury, or fatigue. Roughly 15 hours into her swim a thick fog began to set in clouding Chadwick's vision and confidence. Her mother happened to be in one of the boats at the time as Chadwick relayed to her team she didn't think she could complete the swim. She swam for another hour before deciding to call it quits. As she sat in the teetering boat she discovered if she'd just continued on for another mile, she would have reached Catalina Island.</p> <p>She admitted that she was conquered by the fog that obscured her goal.</p>
3	<p><b>"If I had seen the land, I might have made it."</b> The fog blocked her view eroded her will to continue.</p> <p>(two months later she completed the swim even though thick fog set in.)</p> <p>Here in Hebrews 3 the author tells us what we need to keep in sight – JESUS.</p>
5-7	<p><b>1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. 3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. 5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house-whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.</b></p>
9	<p>SELF-IDENTITY is a big topic today. V. 1 gives us an identity as followers of Jesus – <b>"Holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling."</b></p> <p>THAT SHOULD SHAPE US.</p> <p>- v.1 we are set apart and are partakers of the heavenly calling, even when we don't feel like it. Even when the accuser or "well meaning" friends are bringing up your sin and you are feeling defeated.</p>
11	<p>Jack Miller...."Cheer up – you are worse than you think." <b>The gospel teaches us that we are bigger sinners that we dare admit, but more loved and forgiven than we dare imagine.</b> We are loved moral failures</p> <p>"partakers" -= sharers, participant – used 6 times, 5 in Hebrews It is a heavenly calling because it originated in heaven with the eternal plan of God and the end point of our calling is heaven.</p> <p>In our age of plenty and prosperity and all sorts of toys and smart this and smart that, it is hard to keep a focus on eternity. We are too concerned with getting "our best life now." SOIL #3 Matthew 13 – Parable of the Four Soils 22 And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.</p>

13	<p>The MAIN POINT</p> <p><b>v. 1 Consider Jesus</b> –It is a command. “Exercise the mind, observe fully, ponder, to thoroughly think about, ”</p> <p>IT IS INTENTIONAL. The Bible never assumes that it is automatic.</p> <p>Make Jesus your default consideration, your mental north pole (like a compass). The call is to let our hearts and minds be fully occupied with Christ. TAKE IN SCRIPTURE; RENEW THE MIND</p> <p>Consider Jesus, not yourself, not your enemy, not your friends, not your job, or house, or car, or hobby, or your favorite team, or to do list, or phone, or child, or spouse, or anything else you have or don't have.</p> <p>When you don't have to be thinking about something for work, etc. what occupies your mind?</p> <p>Important things slip from our minds and hearts when we fail to give them the significance they deserve. (Pink – paraphrase)</p>
15	<p>The “Therefore” of v.1 calls us back to remember and give significance to what has already been said about Jesus.</p>
16-17	<p>“Give me something practical”. <b>CONSIDER JESUS IS the ‘SO WHAT?’ OF chapters 1-2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-He is the radiance of the Father's glory</li> <li>-The exact representation of his nature</li> <li>-He has an inheritance and name far above the angels</li> <li>-He made purification for sin and sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high</li> <li>-He is a merciful and faithful High priest</li> <li>- He was tempted and suffered and is able to help those who come to him.</li> </ul>
	<p>IS HE WORTHY OF OUR CONSTANT CONTEMPLATION AND ADORATION? HE IS!</p>
	<p>The more you make of Jesus the greater will be your confidence in the heavenly calling. If you start looking at other things or yourself, then confidence takes a nose dive.</p>
19	<p>It must be intentional because there are so many things trying to throw you off course.</p>
	<p>** TURN off, tune out, unplug so that you can CONSIDER Jesus.</p>
20-21	<p>“Consider Jesus” is the practice upon which ALL THE OTHER upcoming ‘SO WHAT?’ exhortations of this book are built.</p> <p>If we don't consider Jesus, We WON'T...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-avoid a hardened heart 3:12</li> <li>- enter our rest ch 3-43</li> <li>-draw near to God 10:22</li> <li>-hold fast to our hope 10:23</li> <li>-spur one another to love and good deeds 10:24</li> <li>-enjoy and cherish the fellowship of the saints 10:25</li> <li>-receive God's discipline with a proper perspective 12:5-11</li> </ul>
23	<p>-be content ch 13</p> <p><b>Who needs to consider Jesus?</b> You do and I do. If you are struggling financially or in a relationship or with health issues or a combination of all of those or you've gotten bad news about a friend or a parent or a child, then you need to consider Jesus because he was made like us and he is not ashamed to be your brother.</p>

Last week in our community group we were trying to think of an example in literature or movie where someone stood as a brother to someone else and it was impactful. We couldn't think of it at the time but when the group was over, we were watching a preview of an upcoming Les Misérables series. They came to the scene where the priest shows grace to Jean Valjean and calls him brother and it changed his life.

Lyrics from Les Misérables.  
Priest

And remember this my brother, See in this some higher plan  
You must use this precious silver, To become an honest man  
By the witness of the martyrs, By the passion and the blood  
God has raised you out of darkness, I have bought your soul for God

Jean Valjean

Yet why did I allow that man, To touch my soul and teach me love?  
He treated me like any other, He gave me his trust, he called me brother  
My life he claims for God above, Can such things be?  
For I had come to hate the world, This world that always hated me

Who needs to consider Jesus? The parent of little children who is tired and about ready to pull your hair out or pull their hair out and you feel like you're at the end of your rope. You need to consider Jesus who came and lived as a little child and who showed special concern for little children. Or the parent of grown children and you're ready to pull your hair out. You need to consider Jesus and remember that Jesus is the author and finisher of faith and he is the one that we go to when we are concerned about our grown children.

Who needs to consider Jesus? You, if you are struggling with a besetting sin or any form of addiction – it could be drugs, sex, food, porn, gossip, a critical spirit, anger, sloth, self-pity, greed, etc. The call of Hebrews is to consider Jesus, who is SUPERIOR to anything else.

Who needs to consider Jesus? You, if you are tired and weary of this world and its troubles, then consider him who has given you a heavenly calling. Consider him who is your high priest who represents you before God and makes reconciliation possible. Remember him who died and rose from the dead to be the first born of a new creation. Remember that in Christ there is eternal life and this life is not all there is.

Who should consider Jesus? Those who are experiencing a time of blessing and calm in their lives. Those experiencing a season of prosperity and well-being because it is very easy in those times to get your eyes off Jesus and turn them on to the blessing rather than the one who blesses.

Some may say or think, "That sounds so simple, 'consider Jesus'. It's not real practical,"

HAVE YOU TRIED IT?? REALLY TRIED IT? Not just Sunday morning, or the quick quiet time, but really seeking to CONSIDER Jesus in your daily life. Have you taken the time to do the spiritual and mental work of connecting Jesus to the issues of your heart? Honestly, we probably won't be able to do it alone, so get someone else to help you in the process.

Who should consider Jesus? Those who don't yet know him as Savior. Are you able to be a better savior than Jesus is? Or you may think, "I don't need a savior. I'm OK. God and I are alright."  
REALLY?? Deep down you know that things aren't the way they should be in your own heart. Jesus knows it too. Consider Him.

26	<p><b>WHO IS THE ONE WE ARE TO CONSIDER?</b></p>
27	<p><b>He is THE APOSTLE</b> – “one sent or a messenger”. Not just an apostle, but THE APOSTLE. In Jesus the messenger is the message. He is the ultimate expression of God’s communication with us. He is the Good News!</p>
28	<p><b>HIGH PRIEST</b> – the one who brings us to God through a sacrifice. He represents the people to God. More about Christ as the great high priest in future chapters. For now, just recall 2:17  <b>7 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.</b></p>
30-31	<p><b>As the Apostle Jesus speaks to us from God; as our High priest He speaks for us to God.</b></p> <p>Jesus has more glory than Moses  - v. 3-5 we are built by Jesus who is superior to Moses  <b>3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. 5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house-whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.</b></p> <p>This contrast with Moses is GIVEN here to cause us to appreciate Jesus all the more.</p> <p>Moses was really a larger-than-life character in his own time and his reputation carried into the New testament as well. Jesus refers at different times to Moses as being sort of the spiritual gold standard for the Jewish leaders. John chapter 5:45-47</p> <p>The comparison to Moses was significant to the original audience because Moses was the superstar of the OT. He led the Exodus; He walked and talked with God face to face; He got the 10 commandments.</p> <p>Jesus is SUPERIOR to that.  Moses was just a warm up act to prepare us for Jesus. Moses and his work merely pointed forward to the Exodus of Christ.</p> <p>Jesus is the builder of the house, i.e. the people of god. Moses is one of the people in the house.</p> <p>Think of all the G.O.A.T.s.(Greatest Of All Time) in all of sports, art, music, etc telling of their exploits and records and Jesus is sitting there in the corner. They ask Him, “What did you do?” He answers, “I made all of you. I left heaven to take on your sin so that you might have my righteousness.” – mic drop</p> <p>33</p> <p>34</p> <p>APPLY it to your own heart...v. <b>6 CONSIDER JESUS, so that you will hold fast</b>  -v.6 we show that we are of His house by holding fast our <u>confidence and rejoicing</u> until the end.</p> <p><b>Becoming a Christian and growing as a Christian happen the same way – trusting and hoping in Jesus as our way to God. What gets you into the kingdom is what enables the kingdom to grow in you – Jesus.</b></p> <p>DON'T STOP BELIEVING</p>

Athletes from all sports will tell you, “the key to perseverance is to keep your eye on the prize. Distraction spells defeat.”

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.....EX: Jackson Scholz 1920 Olympics- at the last few steps of the 100 meter race, he glanced over to find his opponent and American teammate Charles Paddock, and he lost the race.

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He violated the main rule – look ahead at the goal – keep your eyes on the prize.

In the language of Hebrews, “Consider Jesus”.

To help us with this Jesus gave us THE TABLE.

Do this in remembrance of Me – this is a tangible way to “consider Jesus.”

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