



Hebrews 3:1-6 – God rules His people through His Son

The last words seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong said before hanging up the telephone at the end of an interview in December about his comeback to racing at the Tour Down Under was: "Hey ... follow me on Twitter."

So I did ... as 1,228,851 people also do nowadays - well, as of last count on Wednesday afternoon.

What makes someone worth following?

Last week we were reminded that Jesus became one of us so we could become what we were meant to be. Jesus as pioneer, liberator and priest makes us his brothers. This makes him worth following. This week we continue to be reminded that Jesus is worth following because he is a faithful leader.

1. Fix your thoughts on Jesus. Read: 1

The writer repeats that they are brothers. Through the death of Jesus we enter the family of God so that we are called brother and sisters of Jesus.

He calls them holy brothers. Brother and sisters who share in the heavenly calling. In this he is referring to the destiny and the origin of the calling.

Our identity and reality is in Jesus Christ. We have had a change in our identity. We are no longer condemned sinners but in the family of God. Not because of what we do but because what Jesus has done. We have gone from being sinners to saints.

You might say I thought saints were those people in those coloured windows in churches who had the dinner plate behind their heads and had a glow about them.

Saints are those who have trusted Jesus.

So we should think of him who has made us who we are - JESUS.

We are to fix our thoughts on Jesus. Not to be casual glance. Not just an hour a week.

I read about an old Yosemite National Park ranger who was still working in his late eighties. He had literally spent his life exploring and enjoying the spectacular beauty of Yosemite. One day a city woman hurriedly approached him and asked, "If you had only one hour to see Yosemite, what would you do?" He slowly repeated her words, "Only one hour to see Yosemite." After a pause, he said, "Ma'am, if I only had one hour to see Yosemite, I'd go over to that log, sit down, and cry!"

How much time did you spend this past week considering the beauty of Jesus Christ? The Bible has page after page revealing His majestic glory. It is our only source of information about Jesus. We are to use our minds. We not to be thoughtless. We are to consider – examine – study – be informed so that we will be transformed. All your life and all your thoughts are to be focused on Jesus. When things aren't going well we tend to fix our thoughts on our circumstances or what ever is giving us grief. Instead of Jesus. We get distracted.

This passage focuses on more reasons on why we would fix our eyes on Jesus more than anything else. The author says Jesus is greater than Moses in at least two ways.

2. Jesus is greater than Moses because he made Moses. Read: 2-5

Why the comparison with Moses? This is because Moses is important leader in the Old Testament.

Look at what Deuteronomy 34:10-12 says:-

¹⁰ Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹ who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. ¹² For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Moses was God's great leader. Jesus is greater than Moses the same way a builder of a house is greater than the house he built. God's house is referring to God's people - Israel. Moses was faithful to God's people. But Moses is part of the house. Jesus is the builder of the house. The creator is greater than that which it creates.

Think of any great creator – architect, artist, author Wren who designed St Pauls Cathedral, Michael Angelo who painted the Sistene Chapel, Mozart, Beethoven who wrote all that great music. However great their creations are they are greater than what they made.

God made Moses. He made him the leader he was. He worked through him. Jesus is greater than the house. We are this house if we have put our hope in Jesus. Jesus is greater than us because he made us. So he is over us. He is to be our leader. The one we look to and no other. Just as God led his ppl through Moses now he rules his ppl through His Son – Jesus.

3. Jesus is greater than Moses because Jesus is a Son and Moses is a servant.

Read: v.5

Everything Moses did was to point forward to Jesus.

- Leading God's ppl out of slavery in Egypt in the exodus.
- The giving of the law.
- The wandering in the wilderness.

These are all a shadow. The reality is Jesus. Moses was a servant. Moses was the servant messenger. As the messenger he is temporary. Jesus is the message Moses was serving us in the future.

The message had meaning for the day but was also pointing forward to the future. This points again to the fact that the Old Testament and the New Testament are part of one book. The Old Testament as promise and the New Testament the fulfilment.

The Son has a higher position in a household than a servant.

Belinda's dad is a train driver and this means his grandkids get the privilege of not just going on the train with him but into the drivers cabin.

Being a son means Jesus is greater than Moses who was a servant.

4. We are his household.

Read: v.6

In other words we are God's people. As we have heard in the first few verses we are part of God's family. We are God's people. As a household we are being built.

Notice the verse says **IF**. What is the sign that we are God's people?

It is continuing in our trust in Jesus. Persevering with Jesus. The ground of our salvation is the death of Jesus and the evidence of our salvation is our perseverance. Perseverance not perfection. Sure it is with battle scars, wounds, stumbles.

FF Bruce says the saints are the ones who persevere to the end.

Back in 1968, when the Olympics games were in Mexico City, John Steven Aquari represented Tanzania in the marathon. A runner from Ethiopia won the race, stood on the platform, heard his national anthem and accepted the gold medal. The stands thinned out, the sun went down. An hour later, runner John Steven Aquari entered the stadium. He had fallen early in the race; his injured and bleeding leg was wrapped in a bandage, he was barely walking, just hobbling. 42km. When he entered the stadium, now empty, he picked up his pace to a slow and painful jog around the track until he crossed the finish line all alone in the dark. Those left in the stands stood and applauded.

When asked why he did not quit, John Steven Aquari answered, "My country did not send me 7000 miles to start the race. They sent me to finish the race."

So many times people say to me when a Christian sins - are they are a Christian? As if to say it is one sin rules out the work of Jesus. The question is are they continuing? Are they coming back for more? Are they repentant? We trip and stumble it is whether we get up brush ourselves off and keeping going. It is holding onto courage and hope.

Why courage and hope?

Remember the times these Christians were living in. Read Hebrews 10:32-34

One historian **Tacitus** reports that **Nero** had Christians covered in wild beasts' skins and torn to pieces by dogs, or were fastened to crosses and set on fire in order to serve as torches by night.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a faithful leader worth following. A man of courage and hope. He was imprisoned and executed by the Nazis near the end of WWII for his resistance to Hitler. He was a German Educated Christian theologian. He was a writer and speaker and lecturer. He went to the United States in June 1939 at the invitation of Union Theological Seminary in New York. He regretted his decision despite strong pressures from his friends to stay in the U.S.

He said:- "I have come to the conclusion that I made a mistake in coming to America. I must live through this difficult period in our national history with the people of Germany. I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

He returned to Germany on the last scheduled steamer to cross the Atlantic.

Back in Germany, Bonhoeffer was harassed by the Nazi authorities as he was forbidden to speak in public. Bonhoeffer was imprisoned. He ministered to fellow prisoners and guards with such impact that he even won admiration from guards. A guard even offered to help him escape from the prison and "disappear" with him. But Bonhoeffer declined it fearing Nazi retribution on his family.

He was executed there by [hanging](#), just three weeks before the end of the war. The camp doctor who witnessed the execution wrote: "I saw Pastor Bonhoeffer ... kneeling on the floor praying fervently to God. In the almost fifty years that I worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God."

What are you fixing your eyes on? What is your faith in?

What are you hoping in this morning this morning?

Where are you looking for confidence. In yourself? In shrewd investing? In physical fitness programs? In hard work? In luck?

The Word of God to you this morning is, "Consider Jesus." And hope in him. Then you will be part of his house and he will be your Maker, your Owner, your Ruler, and your Provider.