

Intro

- Everyone's house has its own personality.
 - Smells, furniture, sounds
 - There's just no place that is as inviting to you and as free as your own home.
- Do you ever wonder, "Does Jesus feel at home *here*? With *us*?"

Exposition

^{1a} Therefore, *holy brothers*, you who share in a heavenly calling [God is speaking to Christians here], consider Jesus,

WHO SHOULD I BE THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW?

Jesus

This morning, God's Word is asking you, if you are a Christian, to THINK ABOUT JESUS. Not yourself. Not your opinions, not your desires. Put all that aside. Put Jesus at the CENTER of your thoughts and intentions as you reflect on this passage.

-Thankfully He's very clear on *what* we are to think about Jesus

^{1b} the apostle and high priest of our confession,

1. **Apostle:** literally "Sent one"... Jesus is not only himself the *message*, but the one who was sent to *give the message*
2. **High Priest:** In Judaism, which preceded the clarity of the Gospel in Jesus, the high priest acted as mediator between God and man. Jesus is the bridge between Holy God and Evil Me.
3. **Confession:** This is not confession in the sense of confessing our sin.
 1. This is confession in the sense of "confessing that Jesus is Lord"
 2. It's about declaring WHO we give our undying loyalty to... Jesus
4. This morning, we're putting ourselves aside to think about Jesus. **Jesus is the Son of God, Who became a servant, laying down all of His rights to be the bridge between God and man.** This is the one we declare loyalty to.
5. In chapter two, the author spent a great deal of effort showing how Jesus is greater than angels, the messengers of the Old Covenant between Israel and God.
6. Now, he's turning a corner to show that Jesus is greater than the *mediator and prophet* of the Old Covenant—the one who God gave authority to give the commands: Moses.

How is Jesus Greater than Moses?

²[consider Jesus] Who was faithful to Him Who appointed Him [the Father!], just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. (Both Moses and Jesus were faithful to their calling)³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the **builder** of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house *as a servant*, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ^{6a} but Christ is faithful over God's house *as a Son*.

How is Jesus greater than Moses?

1. Jesus built the Church
 - a. The builder of a house gets the honor for the house, not the house itself.
 - b. Jesus is the builder of God's house, the church. Moses is not.
2. Jesus owns the Church
 - a. Moses was a faithful servant in God's house.
 - 1) He mowed the lawn, painted the fences, put away the dishes.
 - 2) He was a servant to the people of God, just like you and me.
 - b. But Jesus is the Son Who has inherited the house. He owns the church, the people of God.

Implications/Our Response

^{6b}And we are His house *if* indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

*Let's pause for a minute: the implications of this raw truth are likely to be offensive to most of us in this room. This has personally been a very difficult sermon to prepare for and preach, because I've been so convicted of my own sin. What I'm about to say is very offensive to me.

-When we get offended, we tend to justify our defaults, undercut the truth or the one speaking it, and reject the working of the Spirit in our lives.

-We need to stop and pray. To choose in your soul, in this moment, to surrender to the Holy Spirit.

WE are the Church, if ...

1. Our salvation is based on no condition but Jesus' sacrifice and His work in pursuing us so that we would trust Him.
2. But whether or not He feels *at home* here, with us, is based on a condition.
3. "Hold fast" or desperately cling to our hope (JESUS!) in two ways:
 - a. Our **inner confidence**: that the deepest conviction of your soul is the Gospel: that Jesus is the only Savior and is worth living and dying for.
 - b. Our **outward boasting**: not bragging, (in this context, synonymous with evangelism): loving Jesus so much that we leverage every opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus, to those who He died to rescue.
4. Jesus is at home with us, IF those two things are true. So, are they true?
5. Current "normal" of the American Church: "Serve me."
 - a. And we can sit back and say, "Ok, I guess we'll be normal."
 - b. But why aren't we saying "Not my church! We can't be normal because people's eternities are depending on us being abnormal!"
 - c. Remember that this whole passage is based on the command to "consider Jesus."
 - d. If want to truly be the church, we have to consider Jesus and be the church *on His terms*. So how did Jesus build this house?

6. I was lost and homeless by my own doing.
 - a. Jesus laid down ALL His rights as King and owner of the house. He spilled His blood on the threshold of the door so that I could cross over and be welcomed in.
 - b. Please stay forever! Please live here and *become* My house, My home. This is what the Church is!
7. But so many of us lose sight of WHOSE house this is.
 - a. We begin to act like we have rights and that our opinions and preferences and entitlements matter.
 - b. That the house Jesus built is about Me, that the church exists to serve ME.
8. How arrogant is it of me to be invited into a house that ISN'T MINE, paid for by blood that I DIDN'T SPILL, and then walk through the door, sit down on the couch and demand to be served. Demand that things be MY WAY. And to complain when they aren't.

One of the greatest men, MOSES was a *servant* in the house. And JESUS, the builder and owner became a SERVANT *in His own house!* He laid down every entitlement He RIGHTFULLY had and He said, NOT WHAT I WANT. I give all that up FOR THEM!! So that THEY can come in and be adopted sons and daughters!

How much more does love demand that WE lay down our rights and our desires and our preferences so that THEY can come in! We've got to realize that once we become part of the house, it stops being about us and starts being about THEM.

Certainly, this is a place to come and be loved and cared for. But that's just it—trust others to do that for you. YOUR heart should be consumed not with *you* but with *them*.

If you find yourself thinking more about WHAT you want in church than WHO you want in church, you have ceased to be the Church.

I'm not saying you don't belong to the church. I'm saying you're not BEING the church.

Because though you are an adopted servant, you see yourself as superior to the Owner who became a servant.

Here's the cold, hard truth that I heard and was cut to the heart with a few weeks ago: **My opinions + my preferences + my church = our funeral.**

Consider Jesus:

Jesus' sacrifice + Jesus' gospel + Jesus' church surrendered = their salvation.

If you're new, this is what we want to be about. If you don't know Jesus, you need to know that this is what He is about—inviting you into His home to be IN His family. And this is what we as a church, with all our ups and downs, are striving to be.