

It wouldn't be hard to go back, and things really weren't that bad back there. The Israelites said that in the wilderness when they accused Moses of leaving them for dead and they longed to go back to Egypt where they had meat pots and ate bread to the full. They forgot how bad Egypt was. They forgot how glorious a rescue the Lord had given them. They couldn't imagine the glories of the Promised Land that awaited them.

As the disciples sat there in the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus was arrested, they thought things weren't that bad back there. The disciples fled the scene and hid for their lives. To go back to their old lives wouldn't be too hard, would it? Suffering the cross of Christ wouldn't be worth it, they thought. They forgot how bad their lives were beforehand. They forgot the miracles of Jesus. Peter and James at least forgot the appearance of Jesus' face being altered, and his clothing becoming dazzling white on the Mount of Transfiguration. They couldn't imagine the glories of heaven and life everlasting that awaited them.

As the people sat to hear the Epistle of Hebrews, the church was in a difficult place. Judaism was legal, but Christianity was outlawed. Many of them Jewish converts, it wouldn't have been hard to go back to Judaism. How different was it? Jesus vs. Moses, if you squinted, could you really tell the difference? They forgot the legalism of their old Jewish ways. They forgot the glorious rescue the Lord Jesus had won them. They couldn't imagine how the glory of heaven paled in comparison to the sufferings of this life.

We sit here on Transfiguration Sunday, and likely we're distracted. What's for lunch? What homework do I need to do today that's due tomorrow? How is my doctor's appointment going to shake out Tuesday? There is always the temptation to push following Christ to the back burner in the face of other more seeming pressing matters. We chase after good things failing to see that the best thing is right in front of us: prioritizing our relationship with the Lord God Jesus Christ.

It can all be very discouraging. Our lives may not seem much different than our unbelieving neighbor next door. It doesn't always seem very rewarding to follow Christ. In fact, it might mean we're

passed up for promotions, friends don't return our calls, and family members call us the Bible thumper. But on this Transfiguration Sunday: **CHRISTIANS TAKE HEART BECAUSE JESUS IS GREATER THAN MOSES.** The author of Hebrews encourages us saying, **“Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house.”**

First, I. Jesus is more glorious than Moses as a builder is to the building. Further, we read in the Epistle of Hebrews: **“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. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)”** The listeners to the Epistle to the Hebrews might have been tempted to think that Moses and Jesus were like Pepsi and Coke—two versions of pretty much the same thing.

Peter said on the Mount of Transfiguration, **“Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”** As if Moses, Elijah, and Jesus were on par with one another.

Even today, many consider Jesus just to be a good teacher like Moses or Buddha—no need to be so narrow minded. We also might think that going to church is one good thing among many to do. It's also good to volunteer, go to the gym, and hey, sometimes you just need to spend a morning with family and have a late morning with a good breakfast.

But all throughout the Epistle of the Hebrews, the author is at pains to say that these are categorical errors. **“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”** To chase after Moses, Buddha, or any one of our hobbies is to admire a Frank Lloyd Wright house while ignoring the architect. It is to admire Sherlock Holmes' ingenuity while giving no credit to Arthur Conan

Doyle. It is to admire the light of the moon at night while denying that it's the sun that reflects the silvery lunar glow.

To admire the glory of Moses, our accomplishments, our wits, our health, or even the richest and most famous on the silver screen over the glory of Christ is shortsighted and a failure to see things for how they are. Jesus is the God Moses worshipped. Jesus is the one who has redeemed us and brought us forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation.

The author of Hebrews gives us another example. II. Jesus is more faithful than Moses as a son is to a servant. Our text continues, **“Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.”**

We can all appreciate a faithful servant, coworker, or employee. But it's a night and day difference between the affection we show an employee versus the affection we show a son. It would be inappropriate to care more about our job than our family, more about a coworker than a son or daughter.

From the Transfiguration Mount we hear the Father proclaim, **“This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!”** Jesus is the Chosen Son of the Heavenly Father to redeem His people and save them from their sins.

For the first century Christian convert from Judaism, it was important to highlight that yes, Moses was faithful. However, Jesus was that much more faithful. To return to Moses and Judaism would be to return to something inferior and second rate.

To value your wealth, your grades, your family over Christ is to make that same category error. Those things will fail you. On the other hand, Jesus will never fail you. A servant will give up when the going gets tough. Indeed, Moses had his low moments and wasn't able to enter the Promised Land because of his disobedience. Moses simply testified of the coming Christ. Moses awaited the arrival of Jesus.

Jesus is much more faithful, and He will never let you down. He has promised, **“Truly, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.”** Your grades will fail you. Your health will fail you. Your family

will fail you. All these things will fail and crumble like a house of cards. Jesus Christ the Son of the Father and True God will never fail you or let you down.

Finally, III. Jesus is greater than Moses as Jesus' Passion is to Moses' exodus. The Passover and Easter overlap. Jews gather to celebrate the Passover as Christians gather during Holy Week. Easter eclipses Passover. Jesus is better than Moses. Jesus talks to Moses and Elijah on the Transfiguration Mount about the Exodus which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Moses led the Israelites out of the slavery of Egypt. But Jesus through His death and resurrection led humanity from the slavery of sin, death, and the devil to the Promised Land of forgiveness, life, and salvation. The former exodus is greater than the latter.

There are many things in this life that we think will be our escape: a boyfriend who will turn into a husband who will give us a happy life, a new job that will help us enjoy life just a bit more, a new treatment, surgery, or diet that will be the miracle cure for everything that's been ailing us.

But on this Transfiguration Sunday, we know the one escape that will never fail us is the Lord Jesus who has freed us from sin, death, and the devil. We will enter Lent, which is a time of reflecting upon our sins, but even more reflecting on our Savior. I encourage you to make sacrifices in the weeks ahead: consider giving something up. Consider fasting. Consider making time in your schedule to attend our Midweek Services.

We find in the Word preached, the Lord is taking us away from slavery to sin, and to the freedom we have in Him. We through the eyes of faith can see that in the Lord's Supper, we partake of the same Christ whose body shone with divine light on the Transfiguration Mount which grants healing, forgiveness, and hope. During this time, let us not turn back to the old ways of Moses and the Law, but march full steam ahead into the many blessings Christ has planned for us.