



# SERMON NOTES

## KEEP MOVING FORWARD

### **Jesus: Our Apostle and High Priest**

#### **Why Did God Become Human?**

1. To Fulfill Humankind's Purpose
2. To Restore Us

*"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." (Hebrews 3:1)*

# DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## Sermon Overview

Weariness. Sluggishness. Apathy. We have all experienced these feelings at some point—they drain our excitement and energy for living well. So, what do you do when you find yourself in a season of exhaustion and fatigue?

The book of Hebrews is written to a group of Christians who had found themselves in that type of season. In the midst of opposition and life's complications, they were in danger of losing interest in following Christ. So, this book reminds them of the resources they have in Christ and the nature of the journey they are on. All along the way, the author's challenge to them and to us is simply this—keep moving forward!

## Praying Scripture

The prayer focus this week is Hebrews 3:1.

*"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."*

### Below is an example of how to pray the passage:

Father, we who believe in you and have received your salvation are a family. May we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, focus our hearts and minds on Jesus and Jesus alone, remembering that he has given us the message of salvation through his life. He is also our high priest, interceding for us in our deepest needs. I pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### JANUARY 21

The Hebrew Christians, like us, needed a theology of pain in order to have a proper understanding of the character of God. The beliefs presented so far regarding angels and the deity of Christ create dissonance. If God is good, then why is there suffering? If Jesus, the Messiah, was present at the creation of the world and has authority over all, why is their pain? The author of Hebrews continues his carefully crafted discourse to open a window to seeing God's complete plan.

The book of Hebrews continues giving us insights into the glory that is Christ's. It reveals that he is greater than the angels, greater than Moses, and will ultimately restore to Abraham's descendants their rightful place of honor and authority originally given at creation. In the interim, believers, like Christ, will experience suffering. They will also receive their reward if they hold firmly to the confidence and hope they have in glory.



# DAY ONE

**Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.**

**Read:** Hebrews 2:5-3:6.

1. In 2:5-9, the author refers to Psalm 8:4-6 to reveal Jesus as the perfect representative man. Why do you think that this particular Psalm was referred to in Hebrews? What did he want them, and us, to understand?
2. What did Christ do to make it possible for all people to be restored to glory and honor? (2:9)
3. How does the author stress Jesus' complete identity with humans? (2:11-13) In what ways is man a "little lower than the angels?"

**Reflect:** Hebrews 2:10 says that Jesus was made perfect through suffering. What is challenging about this phrase? As you think about the phrase, and the character of God, what CAN'T it mean? Read Philippians 3:10-11 and connect Paul's words to this verse in Hebrews.

# DAY TWO

**Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.**

**Read** Hebrews 2:5-3:6.

1. Read 2:10-16 and make note of the family references. (Reference to sons, includes daughters, just as references to brothers, includes sisters.) How do the family references remind us that we are part of one another and not isolated individuals?
2. What three purposes for Christ's death do you find in 2:14-17?
3. Why did Jesus have to share in our human nature completely? (2:14-18)
4. What key role does the author tell us belongs to Jesus? (2:17-18) This role will continue to be developed throughout the book of Hebrews. List what Jesus does as our high priest. Look up the word atonement and write out what it means for the believer.

**Reflect:** The familial terms in this passage remind us that we are part of Jesus' family. How much control of your life have you submitted to him?



# DAY THREE

**Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.**

**Read** Hebrews 2:5-3:6.

1. The author makes a point to start this section with the word therefore. Think about the key concepts we studied in the previous two days. How do they connect to 3:1-6?
2. What does it mean to share in the “heavenly calling?” Why are the believers reminded that they are holy brothers and sisters? How are the believers to acknowledge Jesus? (3:1)
3. What contrasts do we see between Jesus and Moses in 3:5-6?

**Reflect:** The author returns to familial language again in 3:6. How should we think and act if we live in the house of God? Have you thought about the fact that you live in God’s house while you are still on earth?

**Respond and Apply:** Choose one truth from this week’s study and write out how you will apply it in your own life. For example, if Jesus is your high priest, how will you worship and obey him?

Listen to the song [I Speak Jesus](#), and pay special attention to the words as we think about how we speak to people who both know Jesus and need to know him.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from what Pastor Nik shared? What captured your attention from the [Upside-Down Painting](#)?
2. Have someone read Hebrews 2:6 for your group. Restate this verse in your own words. Why did you choose to phrase it that way?
3. What does it mean to be mindful of something? Why do you think God is mindful of mankind? How does this make you think of God?
4. In Hebrews 2:5-3:6 different Psalms are referenced including Psalm 8. Take a moment and read Psalm 8 aloud for your group and listen to how God’s relationship with humanity is described. What stood out to you from what you heard?
5. Why is it important for us to know that Christ restores us? What does it mean for Christ to restore humanity’s purpose? How then should we live as a result of our restoration?
6. In chapter 3, the author tells us to fix our thoughts on Jesus. What does that phrase actually mean? How would you explain that to someone who doesn’t have a personal relationship with Jesus?
7. What is one way that you could fix your thoughts on Christ this week as you seek to reflect him to your spheres of influence?