

Concentrate on Jesus

1. Our Apostle
2. Our High Priest
3. Our House-builder

Distractions

- **Vs. 1a.** Ever, mid of imp't work/project, need focused, attention, want get done well, something pops up, get distracted, off course? Me all time; bet you, too! Project at home (supper, cleaning), phone. Meeting at work, drags on, mind wanders. School, drowsy, lose focus. Sick (cold, flu), can't concentrate. Parent of teenager learning to drive: don't be distracted by texting phone. Whatever: when in middle of something important, want keep focus/attn, not be distracted. Concentrate on what doing. Ironic: kids' toys broken; realized: really easy to get distracted.
- Same true spiritually. Really easy to get distracted, lose concentration, focus on what doesn't matter instead of what really matters: JC. Not because don't love, believe in him. Little things com up that we turn big, pull attn away, when really our thoughts, words, actions, lives should all be concentrated with undivided attn on Jesus. Tugged this/that way; so many things in life steal attn. Kind of like student in classroom, mind wanders, teacher: "With me? Need you to focus; pay attn; concentrate." What lesson all about. Writer to Heb: we need to concentrate on Jesus. **Vs. 1a.** Concentrate on Jesus.

Our Apostle

- **Vs. 1b.** Ever hear called apostle? Only time. Usually think 12 apostles (lived, worked, sent to preach). In fact, what word means: sent out, commissioned to speak message. 12 apostles: sent out by Jesus into world, commissioned to preach Gospel, on his behalf. **"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (Lk 9:1-2).** Mission, what Jesus sent them to do: preach Gospel. Apostles.
- But Jesus is also an apostle: sent out by Father, commissioned not just to preach Gospel but to accomplish mission of Gospel, to save world from sin. **"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (Jn 3:17).** His mission; Jesus always talked about being sent by Father. **"I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (Jn 6:38).** Always talks like this in John. Jesus was sent by God Father on mission to save world. God sent him to: Mary's womb; Jordan River; preach with authority (Gospel); Jerusalem (hated, crucified); tomb. God raised Jesus from dead, sent to locked room to show disciples res body, proclaim peace. 40 days later, sent back to heaven, mission accomplished.
- So, Jesus' entire life, mission: apostleship; sent by Father, commissioned to preach, accomplish Gospel. God sent Jesus to save; he did save! But sometimes get distracted, attn drifts away from simple message. Lose focus, concentrate on hundred things, seem so big, important; really pretty small compared to eternal life. Get distracted, need to concentrate. So today: **vs. 1b.** Jesus as apostle.

Our High Priest

- And as HP. **Vs. 1b.** In OT, when families to church, bring animals (bulls, lambs); priest would sacrifice. Slaughtered, blood shed, bodies burned on altar. Morbid; by design. Teaching people: forgiveness of sins only through shedding of blood. Once year, Day of Atonement, HP made special sacrifice. Went into MHP (temple), sprinkled blood of sacrifice on God's altar. This made atonement, forgave sins of, not just one family but whole nation of Israel. Special day full of symbolism, because pointed ahead to what our lesson references: Jesus as our HP.
- As our HP Jesus made sacrifice: not some animal but his body. Sprinkled blood on God's altar: not in MHP but on holy cross. All happened on special day: not Day of Atonement but GF. This sacrifice

didn't atone for sins of one family, one nation, but all people of all time. **“Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself” (Heb 7:27).** Exactly what Jesus has done for us as our HP. He sacrificed his own life, shed his own blood on altar of cross to forgive, atone for all our sins against God.

- You know this! Not new. Basis for our Christian faith! But sometimes we get distracted! We forget, nothing more important than this message: Jesus is our HP, sacrificed for our sins. Satan wants us to forget, or minimize value. But don't be distracted; keep focus, attn. **Vs. 1b.** Concentrate Jesus as HP.

Our House-builder

- And as our HB. Unexpected way to describe. **Vs. 2-4.** Rest of passage, 2 things: Moses & house building. Moses: great leader, honored by Jews; written to Hebrews. Jesus greater. House building: **vs. 3b.** Familiar with Taliesin (*Tally-e-sin*) in Spring Green – home built by Frank Lloyd Wright. Interesting architecture. Not building that receives praise; certainly not to staff who work at building. Praise, glory to builder, FLW.
- Bring that up because this passage wants us to concentrate on Jesus as builder of God's house. **Vs. 5a** – for all honor due to Moses as great leader of Jews, didn't build God's house; servant; staff who worked there. **Vs. 6a** – not just servant of God, Son of God who build God's house. **Vs. 6b.** We are house! Jesus doesn't build house with brick, stone, mortar; builds with people, faithful Christian people who believe Christ as Savior. That's God's house, Church: made up of all believers in Christ from every era, area of world. HCC, Communion of Saints. Because you a Christian, you are part of God's house, God's Church, and Jesus is builder.
- Look at bricks in church = believers rise to become Church. Made of thousands, billions Christians. Church Jesus built is still growing as more believers are baptized into Christ. Jesus promises: house will never fall – even when looks bad, Christianity attacked – never fall. Built on rock, Church will stand. Fortress in middle of raging storm. But built on Christ, by Christ, Church will stand forever.
- Deserves your attn! God wants you to concentrate on fact that Jesus has built you into his HCC. You are united with Christians from around world. Someday in heaven that connection will be made perfect, permanent. Don't take for granted what you are: house/church of God, built by Son of God.

Keep your focus – Concentrate on Jesus

- Lot of things in life distract us, make us take focus off Jesus. Let God's Word today speak to your hearts. Don't let life's frustrations, distractions steal your attn away from only thing that really matters. God sent Jesus on mission to save you (apostle). Jesus sacrificed very life on cross to forgive your sins (HP). Jesus has built you into Church of God by faith (HB). This is what matters! Nothing is more important than this! Like teacher snapping student back to attn – “With me?” – lesson: **vs. 1a.** Don't be distracted. Keep your focus. Concentrate on Jesus.

Hebrews 3:1-6

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. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.