

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (Hebrews 1:1, NIV).¹ Dear holy brothers and sisters,

If you are a home owner, you know that you often need to do maintenance on your house, otherwise your house falls into disrepair. In God’s word today, we see that not only do we *have* a house, we *are* a house: God’s house. It says, **“Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house” (Hebrews 3:6).**

Imagine that you could live anywhere you want, in any house you want. What would be your dream home? Well, God can live anywhere he wants. Our passage says, **“God is the builder of everything” (3:4).** God can live anywhere he wants, but he chooses to live in a special way in you and in me. We are God’s house.

But just like any other house, we can fall into disrepair. There are many different ways for a house to fall into disrepair. If you’re a homeowner you find out how many different ways a house can fall into disrepair. There are many different ways that we can fall into disrepair spiritually.

The letter to the Hebrews identifies three different ways that we could fall into disrepair spiritually: unbelief, complacency, and sin. Unbelief: Why might we fall into unbelief? We might fall into unbelief because we can’t see the things that God has promised us. Hebrews says that **“Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1).** We might get distracted by the things that we can see. That’s why our passage reminds us that we share in the *heavenly* calling (3:1). And when he’s talking about the heroes of faith later he says that **“they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one” (Hebrews 11:16).**

Another thing that can make us fall into disrepair spiritually is complacency. The writer to the Hebrews says, **“You no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again” (Hebrews 5:11-12).** If you don’t go into a room in your house for years, it’s going to have cobwebs in it. How many cobwebs do we have in our knowledge of Bible truths?

Another thing that might cause us to fall into disrepair spiritually is sin. Towards the end of the letter the writer warns about the sins of sexual immorality and greed. He says, **“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have” (Hebrews 13:4-5).**

There are a lot of ways that we could let ourselves fall into disrepair spiritually. And it’s important that we do something about that because if we don’t, if we let ourselves continue to fall further and further into spiritual disrepair, then eventually we won’t be God’s house anymore.

But the good news is that, like a good homeowner, God serves his house very well. The tool that God uses for his home maintenance is his Word. Hebrews says that **“the word of God is alive and active” (Hebrews 4:12, NIV).** The Word of God is what keeps God’s house in good spiritual repair. And God speaks his Word through his servants. God mentions two of them in this passage: Moses and most of all, his Son Jesus.

It says, **“Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house” (Hebrews 3:5; quoting Numbers 12:7 [NIV footnote]).** Who do you listen to most in your life? Whose words influence your thinking and behavior the most? I forget where I heard it but I heard someone say once that we are all influenced by someone. We’re influenced by what we see and hear on TV. We’re influenced by our friends. Who do you listen to? Whose words most influence your thinking and behavior? God wanted his Old Testament people to listen to Moses. Our passage says, **“Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house” (Hebrews 3:6).** That’s actually a quotation from the Old Testament book of Numbers. If you go back and read Numbers chapter 12, it’s really quite a story. Aaron and Miriam (Moses’s siblings!) “began to talk against Moses” (Numbers 12:1). And the LORD called Aaron, Miriam, and Moses to the tent of meeting and summoned Aaron and Miriam to stand before him. And Aaron and Miriam stepped forward and God said to them, **“...[Moses] is faithful in**

¹ All Scripture quotations are taken from the NIV.

all my house. With him I speak face to face ... Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" (Numbers 12:7-8). And then God left them and Miriam's skin was leprous (Numbers 12:10).

In our first lesson today Moses said to the people, "God is going to raise up a prophet like me. ... You must listen to him." (Deuteronomy 18:15). That prophet is Jesus. I was reading a study Bible on the story in Numbers chapter 12 and the author made the great point that if God was so serious about people listening to Moses, then he's even more serious about people listening to Jesus!²

Moses is worthy of honor. The story from Numbers tells us that. But **"Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses" (Hebrews 3:3).** Notice that in referring to Jesus, the writer to the Hebrews changes the words "servant" and "in": **"Moses was faithful as a *servant* in all God's house. ... But Christ is faithful as the *Son* over God's house" (Hebrews 3:5-6).** Moses was a *servant*. Jesus is the *Son*. Moses was *in* God's house. Jesus is *over* God's house. The Study Bible made a great point: If God is serious about us listening to his *servant* Moses, then he is definitely serious about us listening to his *Son* Jesus.³

But Jesus wasn't faithful only in his speaking God's Word. He was also faithful as a *high priest* (Hebrews 3:1). In that story with Aaron and Miriam, when Miriam was leprous, Aaron quickly turned to Moses and said, "Please ... I ask you not to hold against us the sin we ... committed" (Numbers 12:11). And Moses prayed to the LORD, "Please, God, heal her!" (Numbers 12:13) Moses was like a priest. He asked forgiveness for Aaron and Miriam.

You know sometimes our house might fall into such disrepair that we might think, "How am I ever going to repair all these things!" Sometimes we might look at our lives and think, "I've fallen into such spiritual disrepair, how am I ever going to repair it. Jesus is the High Priest who not only asked for our forgiveness, but also made the sacrifice that atones for each and every one of our sins. Imagine a house that is completely run down, but then all of sudden it becomes gleaming and perfect. That's what you are in God's eyes because of the sacrifice of Jesus. Did you hear what the writer calls us? **"Holy brothers and sisters" (Hebrews 3:1).** You are holy because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

You are God's house. You're served by Moses. And you're ruled by Jesus. Be maintained by God's Word. And host fast to the confidence and hope that God's Word brings. Amen.

² Jay A. Sklar, note on Numbers 12:7, in *The Zondervan NIV Study Bible*, ed. D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015), 268.

³ Sklar, *Zondervan NIV Study Bible*, p. 268.