

Concentrate on Jesus

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

Distractions

- **Vs. 1a.** Ever been mid project, imp work needed focus on, devote attn to, bec wanted it done well – but smthng pops up, get distrctd, off course? Me all time; maybe you too. I working at ch, studying/writing, get text, derailed; or check email, now I've lost train/thght. You? Maybe: project at home (cooking, cleaning), phone. Mtg at work, drags on, mind wanders. Student at school, full from lunch, drowsy, lose focus. Sick: w/cold/flu, can't concentr. Parents of teenagers learning drive: don't be distrctd by texting. Whtvr: when in mid/smthng imp, want keep focus/attn, not be distrctd; concentr on what doing.
- Same true spiritually. Really easy get distrctd, lose concentrn, focus on thngs don't matter instd what really matters: CJ, our rel to him. Not bec don't love/bel him. Little things come up that we turn into big thngs, and they pull attn away, when really our thghts/wrds/actns/lives should all be focusd w/undivided attn on J. Tugged this/that way; so many things in life distract us. Kind of like student in classrm, mind wanders, tchr: "Hey, with me? Need to focus; pay attn; concentr." That's what lesson for today is all about. Writer to Heb: we need concentr on J. **Vs. 1a.** Concentrt on J...

Our Apostle

- **Vs. 1b - apstl.** Ever heard J called apstl? Only time in entire Bible. Usually think 12 apstls (lived, workd w/J; sent to prch). That actly is what word means: sent out to speak msg. 12 apostles: sent out by J into world, commsnd prch Gos, on his behalf. Lk 9: "**When J had called the 12 tog, he gave them pwr and authrty to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to prch kngdm/God and to heal the sick**" (1-2). That: their mission, what J sent them out to do: prch Gos. Apostles.
- But J also apstl, this sense: sent out by Fr; commsnd, not just prch Gos, but also accmplsh mission/Gos, rescue/redeem wrld fr sin. Jn 3: "**God did not send his Son into wrld to condemn wrld, but save wrld thru him**" (17). That: J's mission, what J was sent out to do. J always talked re being sent by Fr. Jn 6: "**I have come down fr hvn not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me**" (38). Talks like this all/time in Gos/Jn – J was sent by God Fr to save world. God sent J: out hvn. To: Mary's womb; Jordan R; drive out demons, heal sick, prch w/authority (Gos); Jrslm (hated, crucfd); into tomb. Then God raised J fr dead, sent to discs to show his res body & proclaim peace. And 40 days later, God sent J back to hvn, mission accomplished.
- So, J's entire life/mission: one of apostlship. Sent by Fr to us, to save us, bec loves us. And J did exactly what sent to do. But smtms we get distrctd fr that simple yet profound truth. Attn drifts away, lose focus, concentr on hundred other things in life that seem so imp, but really quite trivial compared to Xp. So God snaps us back into focus: concentr on J! **Vs. 1 - apstl.** J: apstl.

Our High Priest

- And HP. **Vs. 1b.** In OT, when fams come ch, bring anmls (bulls, lambs, doves); priest'd sacrfc, acc to GW. Slghtrd, blood shed, bodies burned on altar. Morbid. But God tchng ppl: frgvnss/sins comes only thru shddng/bld. Once/yr, Day/Atnmnt, HP: very imp sacrfc. Went into MHP (spcl room, tmpl), sprnkld bl/srffc on ark, thereby making atmnt for whole nation, makng at one w/God, forgvng sins. Very spcl ceremony filled w/symbism bec not only God forgvng sins/ppl, also pointing ahead to J, our HP.
- As our HP J made sacrfc not some animal but own life. Sprnkld bld not in MHP but on holy cross. All hapnd on 1 spcl day: not Day/Atnmnt but GF. This sacrfc didn't make atmnt just for sins of 1 nation but all ppl all time. Another psg Heb: "**Unlike the other HPs, he does not need to offer sacrfc day after day, first for his own sins, and then for sins/ppl. He sacrfd for their sins once for all when he offered himself**" (7:27). That exactly what J was doing for us on cross as our HP. He sacrfd his own life, shed his own bld to forgive and make atmnt for all our sins vs God.
- And I know you know this! Not new; fundmntl tchng of Xiaity. But smtms we get distracted & forget & minimize imprtnce of this all imp truth in our lives. But nothing more imp than this msg: J is our HP who sacrfd self for our sins. So don't get distrctd; pay attn; keep focus. **Vs. 1b.** Concentrt J, as HP.

Our House-Builder

- And as HB. Kinda strng way descrbng J. But psg: **vs. 2-4**. These wrds emphsz 2 things: Moses & HBng. Seem unrelatd, but we'll connect in sec. 1st, Moses: great leader, led out Egypt, received 10 Com; so honored by Heb ppl; this bk written to Heb. But J: greater than Moses. Then next: HBng. **Vs. 3b**. HBng, archtctr – makes me think of one most famous arctcts fr WI: Frank Lloyd Wright. Famous for designing buildings, across wrld, but also incl some in WI like: “Taliesin” as home & studio in Spring Green, W Madison; “Wingspread” (N Racine) for pres SC Johnson Co; and SC Johnson wrld hdqrtrs in Racine (tours). Maybe familiar, been these places. Very intrstng, famous arctctr. But not bldngs that receives praise, nor staff who work at bldngs. Praise & glory to builder, FLW.
- Reason bring all this up: this psg wants us conctr on J as our HB, builder of God's house. And the connection to Moses: **vs. 5a** – for all honor due to Moses as great ldr/Jews, didn't build God's house; just servant; staff who wrkd in. **Vs. 6a**. J: not just srvt/God; Son/God who built God's house. And what is this house? **Vs. 6**. We are God's house! Jesus doesn't build his house w/brick, stone, mortar; builds w/ppl, faithful Xian ppl who bel Xp Sav. God's house: Church, HCC, made up of all bels fr ev era/area of wrld, united in faith in J. This is what we call HCC, Com/Saints. As a Xian, you: saint, member of God's Ch, God's house, of which J is builder.
- Favor: look at bricks in ch; look how many Ks rise tog to form lovely snctry. Beautfl pic of how Ks, Ms, Bs bels rise tog to form God's Ch, God's house. And J still building his house today, as more ppl bptzd into Xp, as ppl around wrld put faith Xp. And J proms: house'll nvr fall – even when: looks bad, Xianity atckd, chs close doors – HCC nvr fall. *“Built on rock, Ch shall stand, even when steeples falling”* (856). Truth/Gos, upon which Ch is built, is like fortress in mid raging storm – a fortress for us, when storms rage arnd us – a mighty fortress that Satan can nvr tear down.
- That deserves our attn! God wants us conctr on fact: J has built us into his Ch and united us w/Xians fr arnd wrld. And smday in hvn we'll finally get to see magntd of this grand building. But today, don't take for granted what you are: house/God, ch/God, built by Son/God.

Keep your focus – Concentrate on Jesus

- Lot things in life distract us, take focus off J. Let GW today speak to our hrts. Don't let life's frstrtns & distrctns steal your attn away fr only thing that really matters. God sent J on mission save you – apstl. J scrfd very life on cross to make atmnt for you, forgive sins – HP. J has built you into Ch/God by faith – HB. This is what matters! Nothing is more imp than this! Like teacher snapping student back to attn – “With me?” – lesson: **vs. 1ab**. Don't be distrctd. Keep your focus. Conctr on J.

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.