Sermon Notes

Speaker: Patrick Mead

1/12/25

Consider Jesus -- Hebrews 1-3.

1. Last week, we looked at Jesus as the Lamb of God and showed how scripture bookends history with him. He is Creator, the Pascal Lamb, and the victorious conqueror in the heavenlies.

2. Perhaps, and hear me out here, we should consider Jesus. Perhaps we should factor him into our lives, decisions, finances, attitudes, and reactions. Hebrews chapter 1 is a powerhouse, an opening to a great sermon by an unknown writer. Every chapter is worth a dozen sermons but we are going to look at two or three each week for the next five weeks, starting now.

3. How can we know God? How can we know His mind, His heart? What does God think of you? Of me? How will He treat us if we are not perfect – which we never will be? Hebrews 1:1-3.

a. Other pathways to God are now closed. God speaks to us through Jesus. That elevates the Gospels and changes just about everything we think of as Christianity.

b. He is the radiance of God's glory. When I think of God's glory, I generally think of the opening scene of Ezekiel or when God entered the temple built by Solomon. Or I think of Revelation and the throne room scenes there. But the radiance of the glory of God looks like Jesus, his life, his care for people, his teaching. The love of God is His radiance as revealed in Jesus.

c. He sustains or upholds or holds all things together. Not only is Jesus the Creator, He is the sustainer of all things.

d. Is your hope running out? Are your spiritual knees weak? Jesus can hold you together when nothing else can. Just ask a prisoner. They know Who is able to move freely past the wire, the walls and the bars and enter your heart and change it to the uttermost.

4. Can you rely on Jesus? Won't he tire of us? Hebrews 1:4-13. God calls Jesus "God" in verse 8. In verses 10-12, God says that Jesus will never tire, never age, never wear out, never quit. God says that He Himself will defeat all enemies and place them under Jesus's footstool. That was an ancient way of saying that His enemies, without exception, would serve Him.

5. This sounds exceptionally good, and exceptionally important. In case you didn't notice that, here comes the warning. Hebrews 2:1-4. These things were not done in secret. The Jews saw them. The Romans investigated them and reported on the gatherings of the followers of Christ. History is replete with the stories of Christians moving from place to place, taking the stories with them as they go. We have no excuse for ignoring this story, this reality, this one central fact of the universe: there is a God. Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Lord, the One who came to show us the Father.

6. We live in a world in between. We are saved and we belong to God but it doesn't always seem that way. God is Lord of all and over all but it doesn't always look that way. Jesus Himself called Satan the Prince of this world. What is going on? Hebrews 2:8-12.

7. This world is in the process of being redeemed. Paul described it as the whole world being in the pains of childbirth. We experience that when we struggle, when we see or fall victim to evil, when tragedy strikes. Yet, Jesus has already saved us from death. We are made ready for whatever comes next by suffering, by making it through this world. And Jesus is not ashamed of us!

8. God does not despise us. He does not look down His nose at us. So, Jesus comes to us in our form. Hebrews 2:14-18. He doesn't tell us not to be tempted. He tells us that He will help us when we are...and when we fall.

9. Hebrews 3:1 gives us the title for today. Consider Jesus. Fix your thoughts of Jesus. One of the greatest blessings in life is also one of the most ignored: we can choose where we place our focus. My mother was the world champion of that, always able to find a reason to smile, hope, and make the best out of whatever was handed to her. I am not her but I want to be more like her. I can be, if I learn how to focus on the right things.

10. When we focus on the things of this earth, all we get are earthy thoughts and muddy minds. The tech phrase “garbage in, garbage out” is also true of our brains. What are we putting in? Why would we expect to get anything else out, if all we are putting in is dark?

11. The preacher whose sermon we are starting today then sets up a comparison of Jesus and Moses. He wasn’t the first the first to do that; Matthew writes his Gospel to make the connection very clear. Both led their people to freedom but both of them saw many people reject them, take their focus off of the right road, and walk away to their own destruction. Hebrews 3:7-12.

12. Along the way, we will have to encourage each other because sin is deceitful. Sin always lies to us. It tells us that THIS is the way to joy, happiness, contentment, fulfillment and peace…and every single time, it is a lie. Ask any alcoholic, any drug addict if they thought they would end up where they are. All thought they had found a shortcut to happiness or, at least, easing of their pain.

13. We can say the same about breaking families and ending the lives of babies in the womb in a search for convenience, joy, meaning, or career. I was not an avid watcher of the old Oprah show, but I saw a clip of one that circulated shortly after airing. She had on about a half dozen of the most powerful, richest women in America. After most of the show was spent talking about how powerful and wonderful they were, someone in the audience asked them about their families. It got very quiet. None of them had a happy story to tell. The same thing would have happened had they had the most powerful, richest MEN in American, too, by the way.

14. They climbed the ladder of success only to find it was on the wrong wall. I certainly won’t convict or accuse any of them of sin, but I will say that that is how sin always gets us (notice the plural personal pronoun) – it says THIS is the way and it leads to an entirely different place. Hebrews 3:14-15.

15. The rest of chapter 3 reminds them that everyone got a chance to hear the message of Moses but many fell in the desert due to unbelief. They “were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.” Perhaps their eyes were earth bound or, shall we say today, screen bound, politics bound, entangled in the affairs of this world?

16. Consider Jesus. Focus on Jesus.