

# Small Group Sermon Response

**Title:** "Our Confidence and Hope"

**Text:** Hebrews 3:1-6

**Date:** Sunday, April 28, 2024

**Preacher:** Pastor Caleb Widmer

## Last Week's Sermon Summary:

In "Greater Help," Pastor Caleb Widmer explored how Jesus uniquely assists us through trials by sharing in human suffering and overcoming death, as outlined in Hebrews 2:5-18. The sermon highlighted Jesus' role as our perfect helper and high priest, providing profound insights into the theological depth of His mission and sacrifice.

## Introduction:

This week, Pastor Caleb Widmer continues with Hebrews 3:1-6, focusing on the theme "Our Confidence and Hope." The sermon emphasizes the unique roles of Jesus as both Apostle and High Priest of our confession, urging us to consider Jesus' faithfulness as superior to that of Moses and pivotal for our spiritual journey and relationship with God.

## Discussion Questions:

- Jesus as Both Apostle and High Priest:** In Hebrews 3:1, Jesus is called the "Apostle and High Priest of our confession." What does this designation imply about Jesus' roles?
- Comparison of Jesus with Moses:** How does Hebrews 3:2-6 compare Jesus' faithfulness and role with that of Moses? What distinctions does the text make between their roles in God's plan?
- The Significance of 'Our Confession':** What is meant by 'our confession' in the context of Hebrews 3:1? How does this relate to our understanding of Jesus' mission and identity?
- The Call to 'Hold Fast':** Hebrews 3:6 ends with a call to 'hold fast our confidence and our boast in hope.' What does this exhortation mean within the context of the passage?

## Application Questions:

- Applying Jesus' Roles in Daily Life:** Reflecting on Jesus as both the Apostle sent by God and our High Priest who intercedes for us, identify one specific way you can embody these roles in your interactions or decisions this week. How can you be a messenger of Jesus' teachings in your community or family?
- Deepening Trust Through Jesus' Faithfulness:** Considering Jesus' faithfulness as greater than Moses, think of a current challenge or decision where you need to rely more on Jesus rather than on your own understanding. What practical steps can you take to trust in His guidance and mediation more fully?

3. **Fostering Community Through Shared Beliefs:** Our shared confession of faith is a cornerstone of community within the church. Propose one activity that your group can undertake to deepen communal bonds through a shared understanding of Jesus' teachings, such as a collaborative Bible study session or a service project.
4. **Sustaining Hope in Difficult Times:** Share an instance from your life where maintaining hope in Jesus' promises helped you navigate a tough situation. Based on this experience, what actionable advice would you offer to someone in your group who is struggling to hold onto their faith during trials?

## Additional Biblical References:

- **Numbers 12:7-8:** Emphasizes Moses' unique relationship with God, providing a backdrop to understand Jesus' superior mediation.
- **John 1:14:** Reflects on the Word becoming flesh, full of grace and truth, underscoring Jesus' apostolic mission.
- **1 Timothy 2:5:** "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."

## Parable of the Sower Explained:

- **Context:** Jesus uses this parable to explain different responses to the gospel message. In Mark 4:1-9, the seeds fall on four types of soil, representing various receptions of the Word of God.
  - **Path/Devoured:** The message is heard but not internalized, quickly forgotten or ignored.
  - **Rocky/Scorched:** The message is initially received with joy, but fades under hardship due to shallow roots.
  - **Thorns/Choked:** Life's worries and materialism hinder the message, preventing fruitful outcomes.
  - **Good/Produces-Increases-Yields:** Represents those who fully embrace the message, leading to a life rich in spiritual fruitfulness.

This parable highlights the need for a receptive heart and steadfast faith that withstands life's trials, mirroring the sermon's call to "hold fast."

## Closing Thought:

As we delve deeper into the significance of Jesus' roles and the high calling upon us, let's inspire one another to maintain our faith, deepen our commitment, and actively live out the truths we profess. This week, let us focus on embodying Jesus' teachings in our actions and interactions, holding fast to our confidence and hope in Him.

## **\*Nicene Creed**

The Nicene Creed, developed during the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and later expanded during the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD, is a foundational statement of Christian faith. Here is the text:

"We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end....."