



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Jesus: The Greatest Influencer

SPEAKER

Senior Pastor Chua Seng Lee

THEME Hebrews

DATE

2 & 3 September 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

SP started on a new series on Developing a Biblical view of Jesus using the book of Hebrews. He shared that the context of Hebrews was a suffering Church under extreme persecution. Hebrews was written to show the similarities between Judaism and Jesus, but ultimately, to demonstrate that Jesus was the best **messenger** from God, the best **deliverer** of mankind, and the only **mediator** to intercede between God and Man. The supremacy of Jesus Christ over these Old Testament offices is clearly shown in Hebrews 1 to 7. His supremacy over Old Testament Orders of worship is also demonstrated from Hebrews 8 to 10. Finally, Jesus's supremacy in the Saints through faith is covered from Hebrews 11 to 13.

THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS

Hebrews 2:1 is pivotal in understanding both Hebrews 1 and 2. It provides us with the reason why we **must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it**. In the early Church, the new followers of Jesus were tempted to escape persecution by returning to Judaism. They were tempted to compromise their faith so that they could continue to enjoy both the acceptance of the authorities and the benefits of their new faith in Jesus. Similarly, Christians today also try to have the best of both worlds – by loving both the things of God and the things of the world. Such is impossible, and we must therefore pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

1) Why Pay Much Closer Attention?

Today, the Church is facing the headwinds of compromise, persecution and suffering to come. It is common for us to keep focusing on the problems we face but when we do so, we cannot see God and the resources we have. Hebrews teaches us to acknowledge the supremacy of Jesus so that we can view the problems in life in the light of who He is. We must pay much closer attention so that we do not drift away and return to our “old” self/our own “Egypt” especially when we are burdened and weary. Whatever we pay attention to grows bigger and magnifies in importance. We must therefore choose to pay much closer attention to Jesus and not the problems of this world.

2) How did God Speak?

God spoke long ago through prophets in many portions and in many ways. Some examples include how Hosea was asked to marry a Harlot and Isaiah prophesied the Virgin Birth. However, these

were all incomplete in and of themselves. In these last days however, God has spoken and fully revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the heir of all things. He created the world. He is the radiance of God's glory and God's exact representation. Jesus upholds all things and has made purification of sins. He is seated down at the right hand of God and rules. Jesus is greater than all the past prophets and is the full revelation of God.

The author of Hebrews makes a comparison between angels and Jesus to demonstrate clearly that while angels are clearly messengers from God, Jesus is greater than all created angels and therefore has supreme authority and is the greatest messenger. Jesus is to be adored and worshipped. He has authority and is Lord over the angels. Jesus is righteous and the Appointed One.

3) Pay Much Closer Attention to the Word of God

The Word of God has multiple witnesses and was spoken through the Lord as personified by Jesus; confirmed by those who heard such as the disciples; testified by signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts that were initiated by the Father; and in accordance with God's own will – validated by signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit.

The author of Hebrews warns against severe consequence if we neglect the Word. We must not be distracted by the messengers of this world, such as being drawn away by social media or other influencers in our lives. God cannot be represented by anything or anyone and only Jesus deserves our full attention because He is the Word of God and the greatest messenger, deliverer, and mediator. Jesus is our Saviour who understands our nature (Heb 2:14) and our needs (Heb 2:17).

CONCLUSION

Just like the testimony of Brother Yun (The Heavenly Man), who suffered extreme persecution in China, we are to pay much closer attention to Jesus and trust God. God delivered Brother Yun through years of shame, hardship, torture, and imprisonment. Brother Yun fixed his eyes on Jesus and God miraculously brought him out of a maximum-security prison. He testified that although God neither spoke to him no matter how much he cried nor immediately free him from terror and pain, he came to understand that God was there with him throughout everything. Brother Yun did not drift because he paid much closer attention to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Likewise, we must pay much closer attention to Jesus and His voice.

QUESTIONS

1. Hebrews 1: 2-3 gives us seven reasons why Jesus is the full revelation of God. What are these reasons and which is personally significant to you?

2. From Hebrews 1:4-14, identify the three statements about Jesus and the four statements about angels. What is the interpretation that you can draw from the comparison which the author made between Jesus and angels?

3. Share about a challenge or issue that you have been focusing on such that you have lost sight of God. What can you do to realign yourself and pay much closer attention to God?