

## Let's Chat Over Coffee

## The Book of Hebrews

You've seen me pull up the stool before, but why the whole coffee shop vibe this morning? **What can I say, your pastor is just a real hipster!**

Last week I said that Thanksgiving was all about "thanks-giving!" Well **today we are looking at the book of Hebrews, and it is all about "He-brews!"**

... the God who invites us for coffee because He wants to chat with us! Before we get to the "Lord's Table" this morning, we will start with this one!

**Isn't "Let's get a cup of coffee" the universal code for "we need to talk"?** Coffee brings people together & breaks thru whatever barriers separate us!

The writer of the book of Hebrews is trying to break thru barriers as well! Barriers created by God's people that have caused separation between them!

Maybe you didn't laugh at my dad joke, but this does provide an interesting context for God to tell us what He wants us to know in this 58<sup>th</sup> love letter!

**The title of the book really just reveals who this letter/book is intended for – the Jews (God's chosen people)!** They are the target audience!

"Jesus" is the main subject – which was for the Jews a major point of contention! **"Let's talk about Jesus... you know the One you reject!"**

The Jewish people did not accept Jesus as their Messiah - it is why they had Him crucified! But listen to the perspective given in **Hebrews 12:1-2**.

**"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."**

The writer is saying, "This Jesus, who you reject as the all-sufficient Savior... is having coffee with God right now at His right side! And there is an abundance of witnesses who can testify to this truth – to His true identity!"

**In the previous chapter (Hebrews 11), the writer lists several of these witnesses by name – and they are all the heroes of the Jewish people!**

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses... they all longed for the day that the true Messiah would be revealed from heaven! That day has come!

**Jesus is that promised one!** And nothing can take that away – not even death itself! That's why Jesus didn't fear death, He embraced it (even with joy), because He knew what the cross would ultimately accomplish!

**Jesus is a lot like this cup of coffee – He is a barrier breaker, who meets us where we are and draws us back into relationship with the Father!**

**Hebrews 1:1-3** – Today kicks off Advent – the celebration of the coming of the Savior into the world! How appropriate that on this day we start in a book that is all about defining who this Savior truly is!

**Jesus is greater than the angels (1:4), even greater than Moses – Heb. 3:3-6.**

Moses was a prophet & a priest – he brought messages from the Lord to the people and also made intercession on behalf of the people before God!

But Jesus surpasses even him! The H.C. Q & A # 31 says it so well!

- Jesus is our **chief prophet**
- Jesus is our only high priest
- Jesus is our **eternal king**

**"Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." - Hebrews 4:14**

**"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." – Hebrews 10:23-25**

**Faith** in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior is our confession! It is a faith that is not confined to our senses – sight, sound, touch...!

**"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1**

We will look at what faith does next week, but **for today we emphasize what we place our faith in as Christians – a person!** Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith, and His coming into this world is why we celebrate this season!

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