

# Look unto Jesus!

The epistle to the Hebrews was addressed especially to the Jewish believers who were confronted with persecution, not just from the Roman authorities, but also with rejection and even persecutions from those of their own nationality. It seems that some of these believers were thinking of abandoning the faith and turn back to Judaism.

The main purpose the author had in writing the epistle, was to make the believers realise what they had in Christ. In Christ they have infinitely more than what they had before. Now they have a better Priest, a better priesthood, a better rest day, a better covenant... but even more so, the status that the believer has before God is beyond compare to what they were before knowing Christ.

In chapter 3:1 the readers are exhorted to look unto Jesus. This is the responsibility of every believer. Whether I am healthy or ill, in prosperity or adversity, young or old, no matter the country where I live or the time period when I live, my daily responsibility is to try to always have my eyes fixed upon the Lord Jesus. Only then can we understand Who Christ is and what we have in Him.

I would like to share a few truths we see when we look unto Jesus, that are listed in chapter 2.

## 1. Jesus Christ is our Lord (2:9)

Verse 9 is a quote from Psalm 8:5, where the psalmist speaks prophetically about the Lord Jesus and says that He is crowned with glory and honour. It is true that now, as the author says to the Hebrews, we don't see that everything is under His feet. But we, who are born of God, who are true believers, know that He has conquered death through His death, that He was raised to the right hand of God and that He sits on the throne. We know that the heavenly beings bow down before Him and proclaim that He is worthy to receive all honour and worship. And we know that He is our Lord, that we are His property and nothing can happen to us without Him allowing it.

Only when I look unto Jesus I understand and I am convinced that I don't have any reason to worry, either about myself or about His Church, because He is the Lord and He has all authority in heaven and on earth. That's why Peter Forsythe was so right when he said that: „the first duty of any soul is not to search for its liberty, but for its Lord.”

## 2. Jesus Christ is our brother (2:10-17)

2:11 „...He is not ashamed to call them brothers...”

Irineus said: „In Christ, God has become a man so that we can become children of God.”

When we think, on one hand, at the majesty and glory of the Lord Jesus, and on the other hand, at our own smallness, unworthiness and sinfulness, we can't help but be profoundly moved by what the Word says in verse 11 that the Lord Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.

It's so sad that there are believers, young or old, who are ashamed of Christ before other people as small and unworthy as themselves, ashamed that He is their brother and they are His believers.

It's equally sad the fact there are believers who are ashamed of some of their brothers. They don't want to be seen in their company by colleagues or acquaintances, because these brothers are more modest people, perhaps marginalised by society. Maybe even now you can think of certain situations when you were disregarded or ignored by a brother or a sister, and even now feel the bitter taste of that experience. Listen to this wonderful truth: Jesus Christ is not ashamed of you.

Even more, He boasts about you not before small and unworthy people, but before the Heavenly Father, before the angels and before the whole Heaven and the whole Universe.

If He is not ashamed to call us brothers and loves everyone so much, how much should we try to respect and love each other more and more? How should we always sing the song:

I want to love my brothers  
With everything holy that's in me  
I want to desire all the heaven to be in them  
But to love them as they are.

### **3. Jesus Christ is our High Priest (2:14-18)**

This means He is not a distant saviour, but one who comes near us. He knows us and understands us perfectly, because He was tempted in every way just like us, but without sin.

This means that when you are sick in bed and the pains are great, the Lord is near you, knows your suffering, and He suffers with you.

When you are alone and no-one understands you, He is there next to you, and He understands you perfectly.

In Matthew 25:35-46, the Lord Jesus says: „I was hungry, and you gave Me food, I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink... Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you have done it to Me.”

Our God is a personal God, who rejoices when we live in obedience to Him, and is saddened when we disregard His Word. A God who is not a stranger to our feelings, a God who understands us perfectly.

He not only knows and understands us perfectly, but He also loves us with a love that exceeds our capacity to understand. He identified with us in order to take upon Him the burden of our sins. He saved us not with gold and silver, but with His own blood. He died in our place, so that we can rejoice with Him in glory for all eternity.

Dear readers, let each one of us look intently upon Jesus and encourage one another to fix our eyes on Him, because only then we can see who He is and what we have in Him.