

**Title: Fixed on Jesus**  
**Passage: Heb 1-2**  
**Date: 20 March 2022**  
**Speaker: Jason Hoet**  
**Series: Fixed on Jesus**

Read Heb 1:1-6

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**Before there was Putin there was a leader over Russia as part of the Soviet Union called Nikita Khrushchev**

In his memoirs he told of the time when there was a wave of petty theft in the Soviet Union. To clamp down on this, guards were placed at factories. At one timberworks in Leningrad, the guard knew the workers in the factory very well.

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The first evening, out came Pyotr Petrovich with a wheelbarrow carrying a bulky sack with a suspicious looking object inside. "All right, Petrovich" said the guard, "What have you got there?" "Oh, just sawdust and shavings". "Come on, I wasn't born yesterday, Tip it out."

Out came sawdust and shavings. He was allowed to put it all back and go home. When this happened every night that week, the guard became frustrated. Finally, he could bear it no longer. "Petrovich, you tell me what you're smuggling out of here, and I will let you go. I'm desperate to know." Petrovich turned to him and smiled, saying, "Wheelbarrows my friend, wheelbarrows!"

(First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, In office September 7, 1953 – October 14, 1964)

Clever! The Guard was focussed on the wrong thing, and he missed what was in plain sight

**Jesus - He's not what you think.**

Maybe it's easy to miss who he really is.

V1 "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,"

– who is Jesus? One great name in a list of great names.

**It appears that the readers of Hebrews are considering Jesus as one option among a list of great options.** After all as Israelites they had an impressive list - prophets, angels, Moses.

But don't miss what is in front of you. Remember the "Wheelbarrows"!

v2 "but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe

God has spoken to us by his Son.

Jesus is not one voice amongst many, he is God's final word.

The writer wants the readers to in Ch 2:1 "pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."

**He wants them to listen to Jesus.**

he gives the readers 3 reasons why they must.

Because of his:

- Relationship to God
- Relationship to the World
- Relationship to us, his people

**Relationship to God as Son**

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v3 "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being"

Moses asks of God (Ex 33:18) - "show me your glory"

God proclaimed his 'name' in words.

Ex 34:6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Hebrews says while God proclaimed his glory in words to Moses, "The Son IS the radiance of God's glory".

"and the exact representation of his being"

The exact imprint: the word in Greek is "Karacter", which means the thing you get when you take a stamp and press it on metal, to make a coin, or on wax, to seal a document, or on papyrus, to form a letter of the alphabet.

Jesus is what you get when the stamp of divine nature presses in the soft flesh of a human being and leaves its exact imprint.

[slide] Tom Wright

Jesus is like the coin that tells you whose country you are living in. He is like the seal that tells us whose authority the document carries.

When the living God wants to become human, this is how he spells his name, spells it in the character, the exact imprint, of his own nature, writes it in flesh and blood, soft, vulnerable human tissue

So V4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Hebrews has a point doesn't it? Jesus greater than angels, prophets, even Moses.

## **We might not go to angels for our ideas about God and what is best in life, but what do we listen to?**

Where do we go to discover who we are, what we should do, how we should behave with one another? What we think is good, bad, best?

Hebrews urges us to listen to Jesus first and finally. If we are to take seriously Jesus as God's best revelation, then what does this mean?

How does the time compare with what we read or listen [youtube, podcast, news, op eds, science ] to knowing Jesus words? And what bears witness to him?

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### **The second reason Hebrews tells us to listen to Jesus is his relationship to the world as Ruler.**

V2 -4 declare that Jesus is the one:

- through whom God made all things
- Through whom God sustains all things by his powerful word – the whole universe depends on JC for life
- Who has sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven – and rules over all
- and finally God has appointed as the heir of all things

Who or what could possibly be better or more important than Jesus?

Reading further...v6-13

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Who or what could possibly be better than Jesus?  
No one and nothing. Listen to him.

### **In our times we want to avoid exclusive claims. We want to be humble.**

'there are many ways to God', ' as long as you are sincere...' 'if it works for you, that's great' while there may be some benefit in various claims, Here is the problem - they are not Jesus.

I understand the intent of humility...ie what do I know etc...

But our true humility as humanity lies in acknowledging while it is absolutely true none of us has a claim on truth – only God does. And it is God, not I, who says this Jesus is Son and Ruler.

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GK Chesterton

What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition. Modesty has settled upon the organ of conviction; where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself but

undoubting about the truth. This has been exactly reversed ...

It does not mean arrogance...

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John Dickson

We have forgotten how to flex two mental muscles at the same time: the muscle of moral conviction and the muscle of compassion to all regardless of their morality.

([John Dickson](#))

If Hebrews is right then we depend on Jesus for everything: the air we breathe, the food we eat, our present and our future:

- Then the most important person to know is Jesus.
- Do you know him? Does he know you?

### **What is at stake? The Warning!!**

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Hebrews 2:1-3 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?"

What is left for you if you ignore Jesus, what help is there apart from Jesus?

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### **Finally the third reason Hebrews tells us to listen to Jesus is his relationship to us, his people as Reconciler.**

V3 "After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

Now this verse doesn't ring any bells for us, but to the Hebrews it would have set off a whole bunch of car alarms. Here Jesus is our priest who purifies us from our sins. Jesus is our reconciler and rescuer who brings us back to God.

Everything about the Israelite religion reminded them that to be God's people, they needed their sin dealt with. They constantly found themselves living against God in God's world. They found they failed to worship God. Other times they were headstrong – chasing idols and other things, then they were forgetful – living their daily lives with no thought of the creator of the universe – the one who sustains all things. Then they were disobedient, hurting others or hurting themselves. They needed their sin dealt with. Over and over and over again – sacrifice upon sacrifice.

And Hebrews tells us “After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

Jesus has done it. No more getting up and providing more purification for sins. No more “Over and over and over again – sacrifice upon sacrifice”. Through his death on the cross Jesus finished the job, and sat down.

[at our church there is work that seems to be never done – renovating!  
But our sins! Dealt with]

Jesus made you clean, brought you back to God, put you in his family.

Don't forget it may not be what you think.  
Look for the "Wheelbarrows my friend,  
wheelbarrows!

**At first glance this Jesus may not look like much but don't miss what is in front you.  
Remember the "Wheelbarrows"!**

We may be tempted to make the same mistake as the readers of Hebrews – measuring Jesus as one option amongst great options.

But he is not. Jesus is God's Son; the World's Ruler; our Reconciler.

“1We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.  
2For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?”

**Jesus. Listen to him.**

Response/Prayer/Care cards