

DAY 9 FRIDAY

HEBREWS 3:2-6 A WORD ABOUT MIDDLE MEN

² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

When the wholesale outlets like Sam's Club and Cosco first opened part of their attraction was that the middle man was cut out and the savings were passed on to the customer. Although the savings were real and their claims valid, the consumer was on his own as far as the quality, durability and specific application of the item being purchased. While this is no problem for turnips and toilet paper, when it comes to more complex purchases like tools and technology the consumer could very quickly be in over his head. As a result, in our culture of experts and consultants we are very prone to rely upon such middle men. Often we are disappointed because our guided expectations are not met. Ultimately the problem here is not with the middle man, but rather that the middle man was only a substitute for the maker of the item being purchased. The advice may have been good and accurate to a point, but it was still second hand and inferior to the answers to your questions that could be articulated by the producer of the item.

Moses was a middle man, but he was still only a man. The message he was given by God was transmitted to the people, but it was God's message, not Moses'. The mistake of the Jews of Jesus' time was that they relied totally on the middle man. In the Letter to the Hebrews we are exhorted to look beyond the middle man to the producer, the Creator of all things. Better still, we are told that the Producer has actually come into the world in person and demonstrated how the world was created to operate. We have been blessed with first hand knowledge and first hand access through the Holy Spirit. We need to see the spiritual middle men as sacraments, creatures whose purpose it is to point beyond themselves to the true reality. That reality is seen only in Jesus Christ. He is our true hope and he has promised to dwell with us if we will submit to his loving guidance.

As I live my life, Lord Christ, may I not be seduced to follow any human voice that is not your voice. You have privileged me with direct access to your Truth. Prevent me from squandering that privilege and settling for second-hand messiahs. Create in me a new love for your Word and a new strength to live according to your will. Amen.