

Week Nine and Ten: The Great High Priest of Jesus: “The Qualities of Our Priest” – Part Two

Introduction

The superiority of Jesus’ priesthood enables him to sympathize with our weakness and allows us to come confidently to the throne of grace.

Digging Deeper

Hebrews 5:1-10

The opening verses of chapter 5 continue to teach us about Jesus as our high priest before God. He is an advocate for us before the throne of God, dealing with us gently because he can sympathize with our weaknesses.

But v. 4 teaches us something else about all high priests, even the Aaronic priests who ministered in the Old Testament: They’re all chosen by God. Nobody elects himself to be a high priest. The same, it seems, was true of Jesus. Jesus was chosen, in the eternal plan of God, to be our high priest forever. Not only that, but he showed himself worthy of God’s plan in his humanity. In vs. 7-8 we note a few things about Jesus: he came before God with his pain, he obeyed in the midst of difficulty, and his suffering taught him how to obey.

Unlike Jesus, we have not always perfectly learned these lessons. But Jesus is nevertheless an example for us. Have you cried out to God in your pain? Have you taken your suffering and turned it into obedience? Just like God had a plan for Jesus, he has a plan for you that includes suffering.

Take heart – through God’s grace in Christ, we will learn obedience as well.

Bible Study Questions

Read Hebrews 5

1. Briefly glance at Leviticus Chapters 1-7. What was the main function of the Priest?
2. According to Hebrews 5:1, what did priests offer and for what reason?

3. According to vs. 2, why is an earthly priest able to deal gently with others?
4. Read Hebrews 5:4. See Numbers 16, I Samuel 13, and II Chronicles 26:16. What was the common issue in all of these circumstances? Why must we avail ourselves of the Priest that God has provided?
5. Read 5:5-6. What was the quality of Melchizedek's priesthood? Did any of the Aaronic priests serve forever? Why not? Why can Jesus serve forever in this capacity?
6. Read 5:7-8. Comment on the following; "Jesus did not learn how to obey; he learned what is involved in obedience." How do we learn obedience?
7. Read 5:9. "Perfect" here means complete. Notice that Jesus only becomes the source of salvation for those who "obey" him. What is the difference between belief in Jesus and a faith response to Jesus? Does the author assume that those who believe, obey?
8. Read 5:11-14. What is the pastoral problem our author faces? Were the Hebrew Christians suffering from auditory problems or something deeper?
9. Notice that they "...have become dull of hearing." What does this imply for both them and us?
10. Read 5:14. According to this verse, what needs practice? What value is discernment?

Group Application Questions

1. In what ways are you wallowing in your despair, rather than taking it to God in prayer?
2. Have you considered what God is trying to teach you right now through the trials in your life? Are you open to his plan?

Prayer

Read Psalm 119:49-56.

Pray:

1. That God would help us to remember his Word and to have hope in God.
2. That we would be faithful to remind one another of God's Word in times of affliction.
3. Thanks to God for giving us his words in the Bible.

*Digging Deeper and Group Application Questions were adapted from Richland Hills Community Church, Kent Hughes' Hebrews Commentary (An Anchor for the Soul), and The NIV Application Commentary by George H. Guthrie.