

Our Great High Priest  
Hebrews 5:1-10

October 20, 2024

INVOCATION: Merciful Lord, we thank You for gathering us together today in this place. We thank You for Your loving providence to us. We come today to set aside the cares of this world and to focus our attention on You. Hear our songs and prayers as acts of worship to You today. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

WELCOME: Be sure to welcome visitors.

HYMN # 546 Love Lifted Me

HYMN # 345 Now I Belong to Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

PASTORAL PRAYER:

- Missionaries
  - Katie Barnum: Missionary to UK
  - Mark & Allison: Missionaries
  - Backdoor Ministry: Security Needs
- War in Israel
- Homebound
  - Barbara Moore: Homebound
  - Nina Lemocks: At Rehab
  - Jean Rose Gill:
  - Abe Norfleet: Dunlop House
  - Carol Mayes: In nursing home in Waverly.
  - Claude: Returned home from hospital. Is to have a cardiology consult.
  - Dessie: Coming home on hospice.
- Vivian Spiers: Seeing ortho about possible hardware problems.
- Helen Rideout
- Matt: Severe arm injury from work accident. Is healing but is unable to move wrist.
- Judy: Diagnosed with inoperable liver cancer. Having port installed on 10/18.
- Anna: Angie's daughter. Has embraced Wicca and wants nothing to do with her family.
- Eric Bass (Pastor friend of Barney and Sue): Upcoming Cornea transplant end of October.  
Shoulder surgery in February.
- Matt's BIL Mike: Terminal cancer, upcoming surgery.
- Candy: Caring for her grandchildren.
- Mack Narron: Cancer is back and more aggressive than before.
- Victims of Hurricane Helene
- Bobby Spiers: In a nursing home on hospice.

- Gerald and Nancy: Travel
- Shiloh Baptist: Needing interim pastor.
- Hurrican Milton
  - Frank (Angie's brother) and family in Florida
  - Dianne and family in Florida
- Linda Thompson: Broken right ankle. Upcoming surgery with very long recovery.
- Billy Spiers: Moved to nursing home in Lawrenceville.
- Lora Haugen: (Does not want shared online) Surgery on 25th. Pray that it is benign.
- Salvations and Baptisms

OFFERTORY HYMN # 335 Standing on the Promises

SERMON FOCUS: I must go to the great High Priest.

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will recognize that not only is Christ the only appropriate sacrifice for our sin, but also the only one qualified to offer the sacrifice on our behalf.

BACKGROUND:

You have often heard me say that we cannot properly understand the New Testament without understanding the Old Testament. Perhaps no book of the Bible makes this more clear than the book of Hebrews. For us to understand this passage, we have to understand a bit about the Old Testament sacrificial system.

- God is Holy and we are sinful
- A blood sacrifice is required for sin.
- We cannot offer our own sacrifice--a priest must offer on our behalf
- A priest must sacrifice for his own sin before he can sacrifice for ours.
- (Heb. 10:4) "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."

So we find ourselves in need, not only of a perfect sacrifice, but also of a perfect priest to offer that sacrifice on our behalf because we cannot sacrifice for ourselves. This is where Jesus, the Messiah, comes in.

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 5:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

In our passage, we have two mentions of Melchizedek, so the first thing we should do is to tell you about him. We read about him in Genesis 14:17-20, "After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Shaveh Valley (that is, the King's Valley ). Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High. He blessed him and said:

Abram is blessed by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and blessed be God Most High  
who has handed over your enemies to you.  
And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. -- Genesis 14:17-20 (CSB)

What had happened leading up to this was Abram's nephew Lot had been living in Sodom and had been captured by an invading army. Abram grabbed his people, chased after them, and rescued Lot, his possessions, and the women who had been captured. Then, this priest brought bread and wine to minister to Abram.

The thing with Melchizedek is that he was a priest about 700 years before there was a priesthood for Israel. Yet, he was a priest appointed by God as well as a king. In fact, he, like Jesus, is called both "King of Righteousness" and "King of Peace."

Now, let's observe that Jesus is appointed by God as our Priest.

## MESSAGE:

### 1. JESUS IS APPOINTED AS OUR PRIEST

- a. We need someone to bring a sacrifice for us, because we cannot do it ourselves.
- b. No priest is self-appointed.
  - i. God chose Melchizedek
  - ii. God chose Aaron and his descendants
  - iii. God chose Jesus. (10) "And he was declared by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek."
- c. This means that Jesus the Messiah is our high priest forever. He was chosen specially by God the Father for the work of bringing the sacrifice for our sins.
  - i. Melchizedek predated the Levitical priesthood.
  - ii. After Aaron was selected, priests were simply born into the role by virtue of being the son of a priest.
  - iii. Jesus did not qualify through birth because he was of the tribe of Judah, not Levi.
  - iv. All the previous priests only served while they were alive. Since Jesus is alive now, He continues to serve in this role.
- d. There is no other name by which we may be saved. (Acts 4:12). We do not get to appoint our own priest to offer on our behalf. Jesus is the One appointed, and also He is the One who is qualified.

### 2. JESUS IS QUALIFIED AS OUR PRIEST

- a. Being our great High Priest is not a one-time thing.
- b. (7) "During his earthly life, he offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence."
  - i. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed earnestly and was obedient to God's will.
  - ii. Obedience is important in a priest.
  - iii. So is prayerfulness. Jesus often demonstrated the need for prayer.
- c. A priest doesn't just offer sacrifices. He represents the people to God and God to the people.
  - i. As a human, Jesus understands our human struggles and weaknesses.
  - ii. As God, Jesus understands God's holiness.
- d. Jesus is always perfectly in the will of the Father. He is also human, and is able to be compassionate as our priest.

### 3. JESUS IS COMPASSIONATE AS OUR PRIEST

- a. (8) "He learned obedience from what he suffered."
- b. He faced the very same types of temptations that we face, yet He never sinned.
- c. However (v.2) "He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he is also clothed with weakness."
- d. There is one huge difference that we cannot ignore between Jesus and every other priest to ever live. Jesus did not have to sacrifice for His own sin, because

He never sinned. Yet, he understands our weaknesses and has compassion on us because of them.

- e. (Matthew 9:36) “When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.” -- Matthew 9:36 (CSB)
  - f. He entered into our suffering and need and demonstrates His compassion to us by cleansing us and preparing us to be in the presence of God the Father.
  - g. This is why we must come to the great High Priest. We must also try to bring others with us.
4. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).
- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
  - b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
  - c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
  - d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

INVITATION HYMN # 311 Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart