

Review: Jesus the Greatest Messenger and Leader - This week: Jesus the Greatest Priest Hebrews 5-7

Hebrews 5:1-4 (NIV) Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup>He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. <sup>3</sup>This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. <sup>4</sup>And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

- They were to represent the people before God and offer sacrifices to atone for sin.
- They were to shepherd in humility knowing they were also sinners.
- Because the priests were sinners, they had to continually offer sacrifices for their own sins as well as for others.
- Human priests were only a foreshadow, pointing to the ultimate, perfect High Priest.

Jesus is greater than all other priests

Hebrews 5:7-10 (NIV) During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup>and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him <sup>10</sup>and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

- *Jesus is greater* as our High Priest because He truly understands our weakness through His own suffering and temptations.

Hebrews 7:11-12 (NIV) If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? <sup>12</sup>For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also.

- *Jesus is greater* because He was appointed by God to be High Priest in the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron. In Psalm 110, we're told that the messianic King would come from the line of David and be a priest from the order of Melchizedek. Jesus is that priest.

- Melchizedek was Holy and set apart from God as a foreshadow of Christ; His unique role united both King and Priest as seen in Christ Jesus.

- *Jesus is greater* because He is the ultimate priest-king.

Hebrews 7:26-28 (NIV) Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup>Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

- *Jesus is greater* because He was perfect and yet became the sacrifice once for all on the cross. He fulfilled & permanently satisfied the Old Covenant requirement for priests' sacrifices by offering Himself as our sacrifice.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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- *Jesus is greater* because upon His death the temple curtain tore. There is no more separation between God and man. He provides us direct access to God for grace, mercy and strength so we can endure and be faithful to the end.

*Jesus is greater* than any other mediator between God and man. If we reject Jesus, we forfeit our only chance to be reconciled to God.

The warning

- We are exhorted to become mature and not allow our hearts to be hardened. (Hebrews 3:12-13)

Hebrews 6:1 (NIV) Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity,

## - The danger of falling away

Hebrews 6:4-6 (NIV) It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age <sup>6</sup> and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

- There is a difference between *drifting* and *falling away*. Falling away means *falling away* after being *close-beside*; to *defect*. It is actually turning your back on Jesus.
- The idea is not that “if you fall away, you can’t ever come back to Jesus.” Instead, the idea is ‘if you turn your back on Jesus, you won’t find salvation anywhere else.’

John 15:6 (NIV) If you don’t remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

- Let’s be careful here because the devil loves to deceive. People believe they can’t come back to Christ because of their sin. That’s a lie - 1 John 1:8-9
- God longs to hear our repentant heart - Luke 15 *Overtime podcast*

## - Hope for our souls

Hebrews 6:19-20 (NIV) We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

- Our certainty of our salvation is in Christ alone. He serves as an anchor to our souls.
- While we are here on earth, Jesus has redeemed us for a distinct purpose. So don’t lose heart.

## We are a holy priesthood

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

## Why the priesthood of Jesus really matters for our lives today

- Because we are adopted into His family, we can approach HIS throne in confidence.
- We can rest assured that HE equips us to be HIS ambassadors.
- What is the fruit of this? We live obedient lives for Christ, abiding In Him, in His WORD, praying out of a real relationship with HIM.
- As we seek to mature in Christ, we seek out other Christians to help us grow and intentionally walk with others to help disciple them.
- Remain faithful.

## Overtime Podcast