

greatest priest

greater than | week three

post falls campus | august 20th & 23rd | jim putman



1. JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 5:1–6 (NIV)

What did a high priest do?

- Was appointed by God & represented the people before God.
- Offered sacrifices for sin.
- Had compassion because he understood human weakness.
- But there was a problem. Every earthly high priest was also a sinner.
- Before he could offer sacrifices for the people's sins, he had to deal with his own sin.

Jesus is different.

2. JESUS IS A PRIEST IN THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

The writer of Hebrews reaches back before Moses and Aaron to a mysterious figure named Melchizedek. **Genesis 14:17–20 (NIV)**

What do we know about Melchizedek?

- He was king of Salem, a priest of God Most High.
- He appears before the Levitical priesthood existed.
- Abraham recognized his authority, and Melchizedek blessed Abraham.
- Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.
- The point is not necessarily that Melchizedek literally had no parents or never died.
- The writer uses Melchizedek as a picture of a priesthood that is greater than and prior to the priesthood of Aaron.

David prophesied that another priest was coming. **Psalms 110:1 (NIV) | Psalm 110:4 (NIV)**

That someone is Jesus—greater than Abraham, Aaron, the Levitical High Priest, and earthly Kings. He is our High Priest forever.

3. THE WRITER STOPS — BECAUSE THEY AREN'T GROWING

Why? The problem isn't that the teaching is too difficult. Hebrews 5:11–14 (NIV)

Spiritual maturity doesn't happen automatically. You grow by constant use.

You hear God's Word. You believe God's Word. You obey God's Word. You practice God's Word.

Over time, you become trained to distinguish good from evil. The danger of spiritual immaturity isn't simply that you don't know enough—the danger is that eventually your heart can become hard.

4. THE WARNING — DON'T HARDEN YOUR HEART

Hebrews 3:12–13 (NIV)

Notice the progression: Sin → deception → hardness → unbelief → turning away from God.

People usually don't wake up one morning and decide: "Today I'm going to walk away from Jesus."

They drift. Eventually, they turn away. That leads into one of the strongest warnings in the New Testament.

5. CAN A CHRISTIAN FALL AWAY?

Hebrews 6:4–8 (NIV)

Why I believe the warning is addressed to authentic believers:

Some argue that “tasted” means they merely sampled Christianity without truly receiving Christ. But Hebrews uses the same Greek word concerning Jesus:

Hebrews 2:9 (NIV)

6. WHAT DOES “IMPOSSIBLE TO BRING BACK” MEAN?

This passage can terrify someone who has failed.

The enemy can take a warning designed to keep us close to Jesus and twist it into hopelessness: “You’ve fallen too far.” “God doesn’t want you anymore.” “You’ve blown it.” “You can’t come back.”

The problem is a heart that has hardened itself against Jesus and refuses to return.

7. OUR HOPE — SCRIPTURE SHOWS US PEOPLE WHO RETURNED

We should allow Scripture to help us interpret Scripture.

- Manasseh—he rebelled terribly against God—and later humbled himself and returned.
- Peter publicly denied Jesus three times.
- The Prodigal Son—the son deliberately walked away from his father.

A great story – The Apostle John and the Young Robber

The Lapsi Controversy

8. THE WARNING IS REAL — BUT SO IS THE INVITATION TO RETURN

We shouldn’t weaken Hebrews 6.

The warning is real. Jesus Himself gives a similar warning: **John 15:6 (NIV)**

Jesus doesn’t tell us merely to begin with Him. He tells us to: REMAIN IN HIM.

9. IF YOU HAVE WANDERED — RETURN

Romans 11:22–24 (NIV)

Notice both sides. The sternness of God “Provided that you continue...” “Otherwise, you also will be cut off.”

10. APPLICATION — WHAT DO I DO?

CONCLUSION: JESUS IS GREATER

