

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 16TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

PRIESTHOOD (HEBREWS 5:1-6) APPOINTED BY GOD

God established every high priest in the day of Moses (Exodus 28) as well as appointing His Son, Jesus. God also set the roles for the high priest.

- They were to **“offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins”** to God on behalf of the people of God. A high priest must be **someone who understands the pain and guilt of sinners** (2 Corinthians 5:21) in order to be a compassionate high priest.

THE WEAKNESS OF THE FLESH

High priests were able to be compassionate because they, too, were **“clothed with weakness.”** The shared experiences of humanity are what allow previous high priests, Jesus, and us to **“deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray.”**

- **Our compassion is born out of knowing that we are subject to weakness too.**
- Titus 3: 3-7

COMMONALITY AND SUPERIORITY

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would offer a sacrifice for himself first. This signified that he was like the people since he too had sin to atone for (Leviticus 16:1-6).

- Jesus' superiority and the sufficiency of His sacrifice was that He, though like us in the weakness of the flesh, was unlike us because **He had no sin to atone for.**

“NO ONE TAKES THIS HONOR ON HIMSELF”

God appointed Aaron, the brother of Moses, as high priest (Exodus 28:1-4) and continued this divine appointment through his descendants.

- The readers of Hebrews lived at a time when Aaron's lineage and God's will were ignored. Human rulers appointed greedy, immoral high priests who brought the nation to spiritual ruin. Through Christ, they had **a greater High Priest.**

SIMILAR TO THE OT KING AND HIGH PRIEST

Melchizedek, a mysterious OT figure, was mentioned in Genesis 14:18-20. He was both king and priest, receiving honor and acceptance from Abraham before the priesthood was even established through the line of Aaron.

- The author of Hebrews quotes David (Psalm 110:4) here to show that **Jesus is the eternal High Priest.**

QUALIFIED (HEBREWS 5:7-10)

“HE OFFERED PRAYERS AND APPEALS...”

Verse 7 points to the agony of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane as he prayed, **“Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will”** (Matthew 26:36-39; Luke 22:44).

- This verse shows the struggle and difficulty with obedience, yet **Jesus obeyed the will of God perfectly.**

“HE WAS HEARD BECAUSE OF HIS REVERENCE”

Though the cup was not taken away from Jesus as He prayed, it does not mean the Father did not hear him.

- He didn't learn “how to” obey through suffering, but he learned “what is involved” in obedience through His suffering. **The cost of obedience is something that can only be learned through experience.**

DO WE DESIRE THE OUTCOME IT PRODUCES?

The Bible does not teach that faith will keep a Christian from suffering. We are appointed to suffer afflictions (1 Thessalonians 3:3) as Jesus suffered, so that we will share in His Kingdom and glory (Acts 14:22; Romans 8:17).

- If suffering was not spared from Jesus and was a proper means to teach him, **why do we despise it as a tool for learning?**
- Romans 5:3-4

THE SOURCE AND EXECUTOR OF OUR INHERITANCE

“After he was perfected” is referring to the suffering of the cross and the subsequent resurrection of Christ, which made Him the **“source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.”**

- Because Jesus lives, He is able to **see that His people** (His heirs) **receive the inheritance** He died to give them.

EXTENDED TO ALL WHO OBEY HIM

The KJV says Jesus is “the *author* of eternal salvation,” meaning that He is the One who created and penned the script, but how many of us are trying to write our own path?

- We simply follow the One who authored salvation through obedience. Jesus, who learned obedience, **made salvation available to all who are obedient.**

MATURATION (HEBREWS 5:11-14)

NOT A HEARING PROBLEM BUT A HEART PROBLEM

The author pauses his talk about the “order of Melchizedek” and will pick back up in Ch. 7. He is now addressing some basics before going into deeper topics.

- The readers of Hebrews had become **“too lazy to understand,”** meaning when a topic was hard to understand **they dulled their hearing and their desire to go deeper.**

THE GREAT SUGGESTION OR COMMISSION

Based on how long they had held the information about Christ and His teaching, they should have been much more mature and should have been teaching others.

- By saying **“you ought to be teachers,”** the author is not talking about a unique role of teaching, but that **every Christian is supposed to be teaching** (Matthew 28:18-20).

MILK VS. SOLID FOODS

The milk represents a basic level of understanding of the gospel message. Solid food describes more advanced instruction in God's Word.

- There is nothing wrong with needing “milk;” it is essential and important. It is also essential and important that Believers **eventually digest the deeper applications** of God's word, adding additional nutrients to their diet.

LACK OF DISCERNMENT

Instead of maturing, these Christians were still exhibiting signs of being infantile in their faith.

- They **lacked discernment between good and evil.** Just like babies who are prone to put anything in their mouths, these Christians would accept anything and attempt to “digest” it—good or bad.

UNTRAINED IN THE THINGS OF GOD

The idea that they were **“inexperienced with the message about righteousness”** is not because they lacked the tools for growth. **They failed to take advantage of the tools given to them, and this stunted their growth.**

- **Exegetical teaching and development classes** like FJ and AD are tools that are available to you for growth!

SIGNS OF MATURITY

- We must develop our spiritual senses through practice, using the tools given to us: the **Church, Bible, and prayer.**
- Can we discern good and evil? Are we avoiding evil and gravitating towards good?
- Are we able to discern proper theology? Are we applying it to our lives?
- If not, what is stunting our growth?