

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 16TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

STANDARD (HEBREWS 5:1-4) EVERY HIGH PRIEST

High priests existed from the time of Moses (Aaron) until the time of Jesus. They had certain responsibilities and characteristics, but all were appointed by God to offer gifts and sacrifices.

- **Gifts were given to glorify and worship God. Sacrifices were "given" so the people could receive forgiveness.**

COMPASSIONATE AND DISCERNING

Because he dealt with people, and sometimes their ignorance, a high priest needed to be firm and tender at the same time. Without compromising with sin, they had to address it and not destroy the sinner.

- **Sin isn't hard to find. Dealing with it is. Do we act reasonably when we hold others accountable? Or do we just ignore what is happening around us?**

CLOTHED IN WEAKNESS

The high priest could remember how to deal gently with people because he had his own battles with sin. He had to make sacrifices for himself before he could help others.

- **We must remember that we aren't "high and mighty,"—our Savior is! Are we motivated by service and marked by humility?**

VOLUNTEERS?

The writer makes it clear that the high priests did not volunteer, apply for, or get voted into their roles. They were called by God to do the work of a high priest.

- **Yes, much work is done by volunteers, but many of those are simply responding to a call to surrender and serve others while truly serving their Savior. Are we answering the "call?"**

FOREVER (HEBREWS 5:5-6) IN THE SAME WAY

Here, the writer shifts from the human high priest to the God-man High Priest, Jesus Christ. He too was appointed, and obediently and humbly accepted the role.

- **If Christ, the Creator of the Universe, can humbly serve, why do so many resist? Are we bigger than the opportunities God gives us?**

A PRIEST FOREVER

After describing the character and responsibilities of a high priest, the writer shares the divinity and humility of Christ. Now, he reveals how long Christ will be the High Priest.

- **Every priest was temporary until Christ became the High Priest. There have been no others since.**

MELCHIZEDEK?

Mel was more than a big long name. He holds a special place in Israel's history. For now, the order of Melchizedek is just a brief note. It will be better explained in Chapter 7.

- **Read ahead and see for yourself.**
- **Hint: Melchizedek was not part of Aaron's descendants or any other Levite descendants.**

PERFECTED (HEBREWS 5:7-10) EARTHLY LIFE

After writing about Jesus' divinity, the writer turns to Christ's humanity. Even more than previous high priests, Jesus prayed and appealed to the One who was able to save Him from death. God heard Him because of His devotion and submission to God's will.

- **Without sin, Jesus still experienced grief and heartache. He depended on God to meet His needs and sustain Him at all times. Why do WE try to live without prayer?**

LEARNING OBEDIENCE

Again, we see Jesus' humanity. It's not that He was ever disobedient, it's about how Jesus learned the strength of obeying in the middle of suffering. Jesus suffered because He was sinless in a sinful world; judged and rejected by the ones He would die for.

- **God knows our suffering. Jesus experienced our suffering. Will we live lives of obedience and realize His strength in the middle of our suffering?**

THE PERFECT SOURCE

Jesus was never less than perfect. We see here the road to meeting the qualifications of a high priest. He lived as a man. He personally experienced the temptations we face. He KNOWS what we are dealing with and has compassion for our situations.

- **Being perfectly qualified, Jesus surrendered Himself as the perfect sacrifice. He is the only source of eternal life.**

FOR ALL WHO OBEY HIM

Jesus is the creator of everything, even eternal salvation. We should notice that part of Jesus' path was obedience. **It's a necessary part of our path too.**

- **There are no religious, racial, social, moral, cultural, political, intellectual, ethical or any other boundaries to the power of this message. The only requirement is that we obey this gospel.**

A QUICK REMINDER

After the powerful truth of eternal salvation through Jesus' complete and perfect sacrifice, the writer reminds them of Christ's eternal priesthood.

- We can have the same confidence in Jesus as our eternal savior. **He knows our suffering because this world cast Him out. He is the One who strengthens us to endure as He lives forever as our High Priest.**

RESPONSIBILITY (HEBREWS 5:11-14) COMPLICATED OR COMPLACENT?

The writer isn't finished with the priesthood of Jesus, he's just getting started! He stops here to identify why it can be difficult to explain: people sometimes don't try to understand.

- **Many act like biblical ignorance is a result of God hiding His knowledge from us. Scripture teaches that biblical ignorance is a moral problem. When we deliberately ignore God's Word, it is sin.**

GROW AND TEACH

This isn't a call to become a pastor or elder. What is revealed is a process of development where every Christian is ready to share the majors of the faith at any opportunity.

- **This congregation should be made up of willing and maturing disciples who are training up newer and less developed disciples.**

AGAIN AND AGAIN

The writer is calling out the ones who have heard the gospel but because of spiritual laziness, have forgotten to live and share the essentials of following Jesus.

- **This is not a case of simple review. Every Christian should always review the elementary things of the faith. When we stop reviewing, we will begin to forget. If we don't remember, we can't multiply.**

RESPONSIBLE TO GROW

Certain basic principles are needed to understand more mature and complex truths. "Milk" is where we start and should always be available as the foundation for strong growth when "Following Jesus."

- **We must develop an appetite for grace, knowledge, and understanding. The more we know, the more we should want to learn.**

FROM MILK TO STEAK

The writer reveals why we need to grow in our understanding. Yes, it is so we can teach what we know. But we must grow to exercise our spiritual power of discernment.

- **As we grow, our daily decisions become godly decisions. The Bible becomes more familiar every time we open it; we know how to read, study, understand, and apply God's word to our lives.**

THE BASICS

- Each High Priest was appointed by God.
- They struggled against sin and had compassion for others.
- We are called by God to follow Christ and share what He has shared with us. Why do we stay silent? Who are we listening to? Who are we really serving?

OBEDIENCE

- Jesus was obedient.
- He didn't learn how to be obedient, He experienced the strength of obedience in times of suffering.
- We can choose to suffer in times of suffering or we can learn to grow closer to God through obedience in our most difficult times.

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

- Everyone needs to "grow up."
- Obedience is even harder when we don't understand why we surrender.
- This is about our spiritual health. This is about living. If we don't invest in our own growth, we will become spiritual wimps, closer to death than life. How will we share Christ if we are so far away from Him? Are we willing to review or relearn? Let's grow!