

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

“Help in Time of Need” – February 18th, 2018



Introduction

How can sinful people, approach a holy God? How can we, God's *creation*, ever hope to be in a relationship with our Creator when He is incomparably greater, more holy, in a category all His own? Many world religions will tell us the way forward is good works. If your good outweighs your bad, God will let you in – but that diminishes God's holiness because our sin remains, needing to be dealt with. Another approach is to redefine God, to ignore the Bible's teaching about justice, judgment and God's perfect righteousness. One other approach is to ignore or deny God exists all together. To suppress the truth about God ([Rom. 1:18](#)) and go on with life. Problem is we need a big God for big problems in life; a big God to help with our *biggest* problem, sin. Hebrews 4 offers a way forward...

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:17-24](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Draw near to God through Christ (4:14-16)
- II. Jesus is qualified as a better high priest (5:1-10)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

Two commands: *hold fast your confession and draw near to the throne of grace*. The reason or ground for each command is because Jesus is our great high priest! As our high priest, Jesus knows what we're going through. He is a *sympathetic* high priest. Why is it that those who fight temptation know its full weight, instead of those who cave and give in after 5 minutes? How does Jesus' sinlessness make Him even more qualified to sympathize with us?

Knowing Jesus is sympathetic, we are called to draw near to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (v16). Why is it that we are happy to receive God's sympathy, but unwilling to *extend* sympathy to others at times? What is the relationship between our going to God for help and having the capacity to care for others? What are ways we can plan to take better advantage of God's invitation to draw near, *with confidence*, to receive the help we need this week?

Additional reading: Hebrews 2:10; Philippians 4:6-7

2) Read [Hebrews 5:1-10](#)

In vv1-4, we're given 3 qualifications for the old covenant high priest: he was a mediator, who dealt gently with the wayward, and was called by God. The reason for reviewing these qualifications is to show how Jesus meets them. He is qualified to be a *better* high priest.

In vv5-6 we see He was called by God to be a priest forever. Being in the order of Melchizedek means Jesus is *both* priest and king. What difference does it make for us that He is both our priest and our king? Why is it good news that Jesus is our priest *forever*?

In vv7-8 we see how Jesus is able to deal gently with the wayward. Jesus is fully God, and fully man which means he suffered and trusted God as we must. As such, He models for us what it means to draw near to God in prayer for the help we need.

In vv9-10 we see how he is a better mediator. Because of His life, death and resurrection, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. As such, *He* is the one we must turn to for salvation, and strength to make it to the end. How does knowing *who* Jesus is as high priest help us to hold fast to our confession and draw near to God?

Additional Reading: 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 7:23-25

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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