



INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 5:1-10

We begin here in Hebrews the major section of the book that runs through chapter 10, on Jesus as our high priest... Hebrews is the only book in the New Testament to teach that Jesus is our high priest.

I would guess that if you were honest, many of you would admit to thinking, “Couldn’t we study something more practical? I’m struggling in my marriage! I’m trying to raise kids in this evil world! I’m wrestling with personal problems! And now we’re going to plunge into six chapters dealing with Jesus as our high priest? Can’t you find something more relevant to preach on?”

If you want to know the significance of this central theme of the Book of Hebrews, you must ask God for a clearer understanding of His absolute holiness and majesty, and for a deeper insight into your own sinfulness and uncleanness apart from Christ. This will lead you into a deeper appreciation of what Jesus did for you on the cross as the high priest who entered the holy place, not with the blood of bulls and goats, but with His own blood (9:11-14). And, you will find that a deeper appreciation of God’s holiness, your own sinfulness, and the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice is one of the most practical doctrines in the Bible, because it humbles your pride. Pride is at the root of every relational conflict and just about any sin that you can name.

The theme of our text is: Jesus Christ perfectly fulfills the qualifications for the kind of high priest that we all need.¹

Watch It Bible Principles

Watch Bible Principles #9; Heb. 5:1-10 www.villagebible.church/bibleprinciples

Open it

1. Share a time when someone showed you empathy when you got hurt or were sick. How did it make you feel?

¹Cole, Steven J. <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-15-kind-priest-you-need-hebrews-51-10>

Read it

Hebrews 5:1-10

Explore it

2. How does our passage describe the purpose of a high priest?
3. How did high priests before Jesus have to deal with their own sin?
4. Who appointed Jesus to be the final high priest?
5. For whom did Jesus become the source of eternal salvation?

Apply it

“He Can Deal Gently”

Solidarity, oneness with humanity, was fundamental to priestly ministry and is explicitly stated in verse 1: “For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins” (cf. Exodus 28:1; Numbers 8:6). No angel, no celestial being, no deceased soul could function as high priest. He had to be a living human being—a mortal like everyone else.²

6. **We don’t often think about things like Jesus learning to walk, losing his first tooth, or turning 13 years old. How does it bring you comfort that Jesus came to earth to be a human like you?**

² Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews: an Anchor for the Soul*. Crossway, 2015.

7. How do the qualifications for a high priest in this passage reinforce our understanding that Jesus is the only way to God?
8. At one point in our lives (and maybe still), God described us as “ignorant and wayward.” What are some other Bible verses or examples from your life in which Jesus has dealt gently with you?

“Called by God”

Not only was Christ divinely chosen, but he was chosen for two offices—the ultimate royal office and the ultimate priestly office, as is shown by two Old Testament Scriptures.

His *royal* office was prophesied in Psalm 2:7—“You are my Son; today I have begotten you” (cf. Hebrews 1:5), which in the mind of the writer of Hebrews refers to Christ’s enthronement as “both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). This is an implicit statement that Jesus is eternal King!

Jesus’ *priestly* office was prophesied, says our writer, in Psalm 110:4—“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” This was a bombshell statement to his hearers because, while Psalm 110:1 had been applied to Christ by others (and even in Hebrews 1:13), this is the first time Jesus was ever identified with the mysterious priesthood of Melchizedek!

Jesus’ priesthood is, therefore, far superior to that of Aaron. Aaron’s was temporal, but Jesus is a priest of the same kind as Melchizedek. There was no succession of priests and hence no “order” from Melchizedek. Jesus’ priesthood is without ending or beginning!³

9. What are some of the reasons you look forward to the day when Jesus’ Kingdom will be fully realized?

³ Ibid.

10. In court, it matters greatly if your attorney represents you well. What are some of the benefits of having Jesus represent you before God?

11. Even Jesus, who deserves all the glory in the universe, didn't exalt himself, but he let the Father do that. Are there any changes you need to make in your own life to better imitate His humility?

"Christ Did Not Exalt Himself"

Christ was appointed to be our High Priest according to the will of God (vv. 5–6). This office involved his being both God and man. Hebrews underscores Jesus' deity when it applies to him the divine designation "Son" (vv. 5, 8). Hebrews underscores the genuineness of his humanity when it speaks of Jesus' "flesh," his "loud cries and tears," his learning "obedience," the fact that "he suffered," and his "being made perfect" completing all that was required of him (vv. 7–9). The eternal Son of God took to himself genuine humanity—"flesh"—in his incarnation. His "loud cries and tears" pertain to his whole earthly life as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3), perhaps epitomized in Gethsemane. His learning "obedience through what he suffered" provides a clue to the meaning of the difficult expression that he was "made perfect" (Heb. 5:9). He was made "perfect" in the sense that he became perfectly qualified in experience to be "the source of eternal salvation" to all believers (v. 9).

Astonishingly, there were three qualifications for the position of Mediator between God and humanity: candidates must be God (only the three persons of the Godhead qualify!), they must have become human (only one qualifies), and they need "on the job" experience. Christ met the third qualification by learning obedience to God's will through suffering.

How the Son of God loved us to humble himself in such a way! Our lives must say "thank you" every day for such matchless grace.⁴

12. What's one of your favorite ways to say "thank you" to God for His matchless grace?

⁴ *The ESV Gospel Transformation Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway, 2013.

13. We often point to the cross of Christ as the pivotal moment of our salvation (and rightly so), but Jesus' perfect life plays a critical role as well. How does Jesus' moment-by-moment obedience speak to what obedience should look like in our lives?

14. Jesus prayed with loud cries and tears. How does this help shape our understanding of the role of our emotions in our spirituality?

“The Source of Eternal Salvation”

The main point of this passage (verses 4–10) is found in verse 9b: "He [Christ] became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation." Christ is the source of eternal salvation—salvation from the guilt and condemnation and power of sin and from the wrath of God and the fear of death and a life of meaningless work. And this verse says that all of that salvation comes from Christ. He is the source, or the cause, of that salvation. And it is eternal: "he became the source of eternal salvation." It lasts forever. It starts in this life and it lasts through death, through judgment, and goes on forever and ever. This is what the book of Hebrews is about. It is what the Bible is about—salvation that lasts forever based on Jesus Christ.⁵

15. Do you remember the first time you realized you needed Jesus to save you? Share briefly what it was like to come to that realization?

⁵ Piper, John. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/he-is-the-source-of-eternal-salvation-for-all-who-obey-him>

16. Jesus became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, something only believers saved by grace through faith can do. How would you describe your level of obedience? What's one step of obedience you need to take this week?

17. What are the names of three people in your life who need to be saved by Jesus? If you can, share those names with your group and pray for them that they may encounter the Son of God and be saved.