

Teaching – Hebrews 4: 14 -5:10

Sermon – Pastor Jesus

Date – August 22, 2021

This section of Scripture introduces the Great High Priest (Jesus) by affirming our Worship and Prayer. “Because Jesus is our great High Priest, who has entered heaven, let us hold firmly to our confession.” We are reminded of this confession as a statement of faith in Jesus.

And because Jesus sympathizes with our weakness and has been tested and suffered as we have, yet he without sin, let us therefore approach the throne of Grace with boldness. There are three stories that I want to share where approaching God has been told with boldness.

1. Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3: 1-12)
2. The Call of Isaiah (Isaiah 6: 1-13)
3. The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18: 9-14)

The responsibility of the High Priest is to represent the people to God, receiving their gifts and offerings and making sacrifice to God on their behalf. Three things that made Jesus unique as the great High Priest.

1. Jesus is qualified in every way to be the great High Priest. While the previous High Priests made sacrifices on behalf of the people and themselves (because they too were sinful) Jesus also made sacrifice on behalf of the people by offering himself as the sacrifice because he was without sin. Jesus was the sacrifice without blemish. (4:15)
2. The Previous High Priests were good people, but like any human, life’s hardship exposed their flaws and sins. Jesus on the other hand was made perfect through the pain of suffering. (5:8)
3. The earlier High Priests part of a temporary order, something God provided for a season in time. Jesus’ priesthood is different however, for it is for all time. (5:10)

Jesus knows the pain of being human. He embodied human life, including its frailty and weakness. “Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death... and he was heard because of his reverent submission.”

Where did Jesus do this?

1. The Mount of Olives, in the Garden of Gethsemane – (Luke 22:39-46)
2. Psalm 22 (from the cross) – (especially focus on vv. 2,5,24)

Jesus is the great High Priest –

- He performs all the functions of the High Priest.
- He embodies the personhood of the High Priest (with compassion and sympathy).
- He is appointed by God to serve.

Questions:

1. Have you ever thought of Jesus as your Pastor – your great Pastor?
2. How is a High Priest like a Pastor?
3. What is your confession of faith?

4. Which of the three bible stories of approaching God's throne of grace apply to you?
5. Do you believe that Jesus identifies with your pain as a human? Why or why not?