

(14) Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are --- yet without sin! Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(5:1) For every high priest chosen among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

(5) So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

as He says in another place,

“You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

(7) In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, being designated by God a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Think on these things:

- 1) Let’s be clear. Who is humanity’s great High Priest, who passed through the heavens and makes intercession for people today (v. 14)?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God

- 2) Why can we assert that Jesus really understands human beings, that He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses and temptations --- since He is God, the Son (v. 15)? Look at these verses: Psalm 78:32-41, John 1:14, Philippians 2:5-8, and Hebrews 2:17-18. Don’t miss a very key doctrinal teaching from v. 15b: though tempted in every way like us, JESUS WAS WITHOUT SIN!

Jesus was tempted in every way as a human, but without sinning. Psalms – God’s compassion led HIM to atone for our sins. John – Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us. Philippians – Jesus set aside His glory to become a man and die an atoning death. Hebrews – He suffered temptations and gave Himself as the propitiation for sin.

- 3) Knowing what we do from answering questions 1 and 2 above, what two things are we are to do now, and what do we hope is the result?

v. 14b – **Hold fast to our confession about who Jesus is.**

v. 16a – **Draw near to God with confidence (in prayer).**

v. 16b, the result? **We hope to receive His mercy and grace in OUR time of need.**

- 4) Chapter 5 begins with a discussion on Jewish High Priests. Aaron was the first High Priest chosen by God in Exodus 28. All Jewish High Priests since then are to be direct descendants. What do we learn from 5:2b-3 about these men who are to deal gently with the ignorant and straying people.

These men have their own weaknesses, and they must make sacrifices for their own sins before making sacrifices for the people.

NOTE: There is unquestionably a parallel with the Pope of Catholic Church and the Jewish High Priest. It is never appropriate to “deify” these men or consider them infallible. While they are leaders of millions, they are also just men, like all other men, contending with their own weaknesses and temptations.

- 5) Who calls and ordains High Priests (v. 4)? Was Jesus made High Priest because He was from the line of Aaron (a Levite, v.6, 10)? (NOTE: We will study the priest mentioned in v. 6 in Chapter 7).

God calls and ordains His priests. Jesus was made a High Priest after Melchizedek, not because He was from the line of Aaron.

- 6) Can you recall the period alluded to in vs. 7-8? Consider Matthew 26:36-46. Would you say that Jesus got a “yes” to His prayer? Explain.

Vs. 7-8 describe the night in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus went to pray before His arrest and crucifixion. 3X He went off to pray that God the Father might “let this cup pass” from Him, nevertheless, “not as I will, but as You will.” Yes...in the sense God’s will prevailed. No...in the sense that Jesus was not delivered from death on the cross.

- 7) Do you realize that Jesus also prayed for you? See John 17:1, 20-26. What was His request for?

He prayed that through Christian unity the world would recognize that the Father sent the Son.

- 8) After Jesus obeyed --- and suffered --- following this significant prayer vigil, what does the writer of Hebrews tell us He became? See also John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, and 1 Peter 1:8-9.

V. 9, Jesus has become the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. John – Jesus is the Way to the Father. 1 Timothy – Jesus is the ONLY Mediator between God and mankind. 1 Peter – With inexpressible joy we obtain the outcome of our faith → the salvation of our souls!

People and situations I want to pray for this week: