

A GREATER PRIEST

Life Groups; Week of Sunday, February 5, 2023; Hebrews 5:1-10; Richie Pendred

Sermon Theme: Christians are implored to hold fast to their confession and draw near to His throne amid difficulty because they have a greater and eternal High Priest in Jesus. Therefore, our confidence is to be bolstered by the reality of Christ's priestly work, leading to greater and greater obedience to Him.

I. Levitical Priesthood – Read Hebrews 5:1-4

- A. How does this passage connect to Hebrews 4:14-16?
- B. According to verse 1, what was the purpose of the Old Testament priests?
- C. In what way was the High Priest unified with the people of God? What does it mean that the High Priest can “deal gently” with the people? What are the ramifications for the people and the priests who are beset with weakness?
- D. How are the ignorance and waywardness of the people related to the high priest? How might you guard against ignorance, waywardness, or the tendency to go wayward in your own life?

II. Jesus' Priesthood – Read Hebrews 5:5-10

- A. What observations do you make about verses 5-10? What two passages are given to support the statement that Jesus was “appointed by God”? What is the significance of those passages?
- B. What are all the difference ways in which the author displays that Jesus is greater than the Levitical High Priests from the Old Testament? What does it mean for Jesus to be a “priest forever”? Why does the author compare Jesus to Melchizedek?
- C. How do Jesus's prayers during his earthly life demonstrate His unity with humanity?
- D. How would you interpret verse 9? What does it mean that “Jesus was made perfect”? How is Jesus's perfection critical to Him being the source of salvation?

III. Our Greater High Priest – Application

- A. According to the author, what are the reasons that we can hold fast to our confession that our only hope of salvation is in Jesus, as seen in Hebrews 4:14-16 and fleshed out in 5:1-10?
- B. In what ways would you like to grow in considering our Great High Priest throughout the course of your week? How is it an encouragement that Jesus is our eternal priest and king?
- C. How is faith in our Great High Priest connected to our desire to walk in obedience to Christ?