



All Man, All God

By Johnny Caruso on August 2, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Hebrews 5

This is the second mention of Jesus as High Priest in Hebrews 4:14-16. This time the writer talks about *"in the days of his flesh."* This refers to the earthly ministry of Jesus before His death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus threw off His humanity after the cross.

The stress on Jesus as a human being is important because Christ could not have saved us unless He became like us, except without sin. A high priest can represent us only if he shares our humanity (Hebrews 5:1). Moreover, without taking on a human nature, the Son of God could not have offered up *"prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears"* (Hebrews 4:7).

During Jesus' life, He regularly devoted Himself to prayer (Mark 1:35; 6:46). In the garden of Gethsemane, He anguished in His humanity over His upcoming death under divine judgment against sinners (Luke 22:39-46). John Calvin wrote, Jesus *"had no horror at death, therefore, simply as a passage out of the world, but because he had before his eyes the dreadful tribunal of God, and the Judge himself armed with inconceivable vengeance; and because our sins, the load of which was laid upon him, pressed him down with their enormous weight."*

Jesus was taught obedience in the garden of Gethsemane as He anticipated the crucifixion and His death under God's curse on the cross (Hebrews 5:8). Again, here the writer of Hebrews speaks of Christ in His humanness. As our perfect High Priest, the incarnate Jesus, the Godman who represents us, had to obey God perfectly in all things, even when it was hardest to obey Him. What could be more difficult than continuing to obey God on the cross while He bore the punishment for our sins in our place? But God actually answered Jesus' prayer for deliverance, raising Him from the dead after perfect atonement had been made, and appointing Him the source of salvation for all who trust in Him alone (vv. 9-10).

In the last few weeks Taylor Braswell, Ken Terry and I have preached about trials and suffering. God heard Jesus' prayer for deliverance and answered it. However, He did not answer it by keeping Jesus from suffering. Jesus still went to the cross. His deliverance was His resurrection. This is an example that God does not always answer our prayers for rescue immediately. Deliverance from some things will not come on this side of death, but we will ultimately be delivered from all evil (amen) in our glorification if we trust Christ.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the humanity of Jesus, for without it we would not have the gift of salvation.

TOMORROW'S READING: Hebrews 6

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