"A SUPERIOR Priest You Can Trust"

Hebrews 5:1-10

9/22/96

Our High Priest is Jesus Christ!

***Christ is superior to any other priest who ever lived!**

I. Jesus: A COMPASSIONATE Priest (4:15a; 5:1-2)

II. Jesus: A SINLESS Priest (4:15b; 5:3)

III. Jesus: An ORDAINED Priest (5:4-6)

IV. Jesus: An OBEDIENT Priest (5:7-8)

V. Jesus: A SAVING Priest (5:9)

VI. Jesus: A <u>UNIQUE</u> Priest (5:10)

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Introduction:

The theme of Hebrews is the superiority of Jesus Christ. In the previous chapters, He is revealed to be superior to the Old Testament prophets (1:1-4), angels (1:5-2:18), and Moses (3:1-6). Now His superiority over the Old Testament Jewish priesthood i shown (4:14-10:21).

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I. Jesus: A COMPASSIONATE Priest (4:15a; 5:1-2)

V. 1

*"**For**"* - Gives a further explanation of a previous thought.

Back in 3:15, Christ is shown to be a great High Priest who cares about our infirmities.

He sympathizes with us because He Himself experienced temptation -- *"YET WITHOUT SIN."*

Now the writer of Hebrews, continuing that thought, compares and contrasts our sympathetic yet sinless High Priest with the sympathetic yet sinful Old Testament High Priests.

Day after day, month after month, year after year, every time a Jewish priest sacrificed an animal, it was a reminder of man's sinfulness which needed a blood atonement.

The innocent having its blood shed on behalf of the guilty.

For man to be reconciled to God, there had to be a sacrifice in between the two.

V. 2

*"**Compassion**"* - (*metriopatheo*) to have balanced feelings; a right measure of feelings toward someone.

"The word was used in Aristotelian philosophical tradition in the sense of moderating one's feelings or passions so as to avoid excesses either of enthusiasm or impassivity. The word indicates that an earthly high priest is not to pass over the sin of his fellow man without any regard at all; however, on the other hand, he is not to allow himself to be caught up in his passion and pity for the sinner, but rather he is to have a controlled feeling of sympathy" (Rienecker, p. 677-8)

*"**Ignorant**"* - Those who don't know God's Word and ways

*"**Out of the way**"* - Those who are misguided and led astray; those prone to wander and err due to their ignorance.

*"**Compassed with infirmity**"* - Surrounded by weakness. The human high priest

would look at others and see their inadequacies; then he could look in any direction regarding his own life and see weak spots, short-comings.

"Compassion. . . for he himself also" - Israel's high priest could have sympathetic feelings for the people he interceded for because he knew that he himself shared in the same weaknesses.

Principle: When you realize your own weaknesses at every turn, you then have the capacity to have compassion on others who share your Adamic nature.

Many fail to show compassion to others who err, because they never see their own depravity.

II. Jesus: A SINLESS Priest (4:15b; 5:3)

V. 3

"By reason hereof" - Because of the human high priest's infirmity (weaknesses due to his sin nature), he had to offer sacrifices for himself as well as the people (Heb. 9:7 - *"But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people.")*

The sinless Christ, however, did not (Heb. 7:27 - *"Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.")*.

Not one evil or untrue word ever came from His lips. Not one evil deed was ever performed by His hands. Not one evil thought ever passed through His mind. Jesus was without sin!

Although Jesus is sinless, He is still *"the friend of sinners"* (Mt. 11:19).

III. Jesus: An <u>ORDAINED</u> Priest (5:4-6)

V. 4

"No man taketh this honor unto himself" - There wee not to ever be any self-

appointed priests in Israel. They had to be from the line of Levi, and the high priest from Aaron's lineage.

When King Saul attempted to offer sacrifice, a ministry reserved for the priests, he was judged by God (Pfeiffer, p. 43).

"Korah and his fellow rebels tried to make themselves priests and God judged them (Num. 16). When King Uzziah tried to enter the temple and burn incense, God smote him with leprosy" (II Chron. 26:16-21) (Wiersbe, p. 50).

No "priest" today in any religion (RCC, Mormon, Episcopal) could qualify to be a priest. They were never called of God.

Don't ever assume an office or position in ministry unless you are absolutely sure God called you.

V. 5

"Glorified not Himself" - Although He was God, Christ *"made Himself of no reputation"* (Phil. 2:7); God the Father honored His Son (Jn. 8:54 - *"Jesus answered, If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoreth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God").*

Application: Don't glorify yourself; let God lift you up. (Lk. 14:11 - *"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.";* James 4:10 - *"Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up").*

"Thou art My Son, today have I begotten Thee" - A quote from the Messianic Psalm 2:7.

This text, as quoted in Acts 13:33-34 and Romans 1:4, is a reference to Christ's resurrection.

V. 6

This declaration (quoting Psalm 110:4) by the Father, again shows how Christ did not take the honor of High Priest independently, but God the Father bestowed it on Him.

IV. Jesus: An <u>OBEDIENT</u> Priest (5:7-8)

V. 7

Before Calvary, Jesus anticipating the weight of the sin of the world and the abandonment of the Father, requested for that awful cup to pass from Him (Jn. 12:27; Mt. 26:39-44).

He ***"was heard in that he feared"*** - The Father always hears the request of one who, like Christ, has a submissive, reverence attitude; one with a willingness to do the will of the Father no matter what the cost.

The Father heard Christ's desperate request, yet it was His will not to remove that cup (EX: Paul's request for his thorn to be removed).

Will you be submissive to God's will no matter what?

V. 8

"Learned obedience" - Christ experienced obedience even unto *"the death of the cross"* (Phil. 2:8).

You often learn more from suffering than any other way.

Lit. Christ learned "<u>the</u> obedience." A particular obedience is in view; namely, obedience regarding the cross.

Are you willing to obey as Jesus did?

(ILLUS: the 1 out of 100 horses which passed the test)

V. Jesus: A <u>SAVING</u> Priest (5:9)

"Perfect" - Not in essence, but in action, Christ completed or finished the task of redemption, with full integrity and unflinching submission.

"It is finished" (Jn. 19:30).

"Author" = Cause or source.

Because of Christ's work of suffering, He now is the source from which salvation flows (EX: our piped-in water has its source in the Catskill Mountains).

"Eternal" - The Old Testament priests never provided anything that was eternal, because they were <u>not</u> eternal and their sacrifices were not eternal.

"All them" - Not some of them.

"That obey Him" - All who obey His call to salvation receive it.

Mt. 11:28 - *"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

Jn. 7:37 - *"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink."*

Rev. 22:17 - *"And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."*

"Obey" -

"*A great company of the priests were obedient to the faith"* (Acts 6:7). *"But they have not all obeyed the Gospel"* (Rom. 10:16). *"Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth"* (I Peter 1:22). Once we have put our faith in Jesus Christ, and thus obeyed His call, we experience His eternal salvation. (Wiersbe, p. 56).

VI. Jesus: A <u>UNIQUE</u> Priest (5:10)

"Our Lord could never have been a Levitical priest, because he was born of the tribe of Judah (7:14) and not the tribe of Levi. Thus, He must be associated with another order of priests, that of Melchizedek" (Ryrie note).

Melchizedek was a king and priest who lived before God established the priesthood in Israel.

He established a <u>type</u> of Christ (was a pre-figuring of Christ).