

Hebrews Ch. 5

V.1

-Becoming a high priest was a huge responsibility

-it is not a position you could just apply for but you had to have the right qualifications and be selected by the priesthood

-Before the time of Christ, the high priests were responsible for offering sacrifices for the sins of the people

-they were the only ones allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year to enter the presence of God

-the position of high priest was ultimately fulfilled by Jesus Himself

V.2-3

-although the high priest strives for perfection and sinlessness, it is understood that he is still a man with a sinful nature

-the high priest is to make sacrifices once a year for the people and the priests

Lev 16:15 "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat.

Lev 16:16 "He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities.

Lev 16:18 "Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides.

Lev 16:20 "When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat.

Lev 16:21 "Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send *it* away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who *stands* in readiness.

Lev 16:22 "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

-Two goats were used in this sacrifice

-one was slain and its blood sprinkled on the mercy seat

-this represents Christ's death and blood being spilled for the people

-the second goat is set loose into the wilderness with all the sins of the people

-this represents our sins being removed from us at the time of His death

V.4

-only a very select few people would qualify to be high priest

-you had to be a descendant of Aaron, the original high priest

-and you had to be in very good physical condition:

Lev 21:17 "Speak to Aaron, saying, 'No man of your offspring throughout their generations who has a defect shall approach to offer the food of his God.

Lev 21:18 'For no one who has a defect shall approach: a blind man, or a lame man, or he who has a disfigured *face*, or any deformed *limb*,

Lev 21:19 or a man who has a broken foot or broken hand,

Lev 21:20 or a hunchback or a dwarf, or *one who has* a defect in his eye or eczema or scabs or crushed testicles.

Lev 21:21 'No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a defect is to come near to offer the LORD'S offerings by fire; *since* he has a defect, he shall not come near to offer the food of his God.

-God put these requirements in place because the high priest is a picture of the perfect High Priest to come

V.5-6

-Jesus had every right to brag about being the ultimate High Priest and that He was God Himself

-He had more power than any king or rich man

-He could have performed any miracle He wanted for His own pleasure

-He could have used His power for personal gain

-He could have been the most popular, wealthy powerful person this world had ever known

-but He didn't

-He chose to submit Himself to the will of God for the greater good which was our salvation

-He did let it be known that He was God but never in an arrogant way

Php 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

-and still, the religious leaders were the ones that had the most problems with Him

-Saying "I have begotten You" is not to say that Jesus was created

-the word means to "be the Father by the extension of a mother"

-Jesus was physically born or "begotten" but spiritually has been in existence for ever

-the order of Melchizedek will be discussed much more in chapter 7

-he is a very interesting character as we will see

V.7

-“the days of His flesh” obviously refer to the 33 years Jesus was on Earth

-Jesus spent much time praying

-and when He prayed, He prayed passionately

-I believe that a strong prayer life is something that most believers struggle with

-our lives are so consumed with business and worry that we tell ourselves we just don't have time to pray a lot

-and the less time we spend praying, the more unnatural it feels when we do pray

-Praying was not a last resort for Jesus

-by watching His life, you get the impression that there is no place that He would rather be than in prayer to the Father

-you would often see Him sneak away from His hectic days and go somewhere by Himself to go pray

-when others would go home, He would find a quiet spot to pray

-and His prayers would range from just a few words to practically praying all night

-the day that the church understands the power that is theirs through prayer is the day that the church will genuinely come alive

-and notice why God heard His prayers; because of His Piety

-Piety means “caution, reverence and even dread”

-Basically means that you understand that the One you are praying to holds all the cards

V.8

-Although He had the ability to have whatever He wanted, Jesus chose learned obedience through suffering

-this is a great lesson for so many parents today

-today's culture tells us that a good father gives their kid whatever they want

-so we wind up with dads who try to be their kids best friend and buy them everything they never had growing up

-or the dad gives their kid everything out of guilt for not being more involved in their life

- but it was through suffering that Jesus learned obedience
- I'm not suggesting that we make our kids suffer in any physical or emotional way
- but there is value in having to do without a lot of material possessions

V.9-10

- This verse can be easily misunderstood
 - in order to be "made perfect" tends to imply that either Jesus was not perfect at some point in the past or that Jesus was created perfect
 - neither is correct
 - There was never a time that Jesus wasn't perfect
- 2Co 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.

- and Jesus is not a created being so He could have never been "made" perfect
- Joh 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 17:5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- so what does this verse mean?
 - the words "made perfect" are actually the same word
 - the phrase is only one word in the Greek translation
- The word doesn't mean "without blemish" or "to be created" like we think it would
- the word means "to complete or accomplish (as in character)"
 - Jesus accomplished perfection by making a choice every moment to submit to the will of the Father, even unto death
 - it was not automatic or effortless for Him
- and because He was able to accomplish perfection, He was the only one who was qualified to be sacrificed in our place as the ultimate spotless lamb who would take away the sins of the world
- so now He becomes the source of our salvation
 - we are to obey Him and His commands
 - when Jesus says we are to obey Him, some people's mind automatically go to the Ten Commandments
 - but is that what Jesus is talking about?

-how can we be saved through grace if He requires us to obey the Ten Commandments?

- [Joh 13:34](#) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

-[Joh 13:35](#) "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

-V.11-12

-certain truths of the bible are not easy to explain

-like the story of Melchizedek

-there is enough information given in the bible to know who he is

-but there is also a lot of information we don't have about him which makes him a very mysterious person

-trying to discuss matters like this with genuine believers who have a hunger for the word is one thing

-but trying to explain it to people who have become dull of hearing is very frustrating

-many believers today don't want to go much deeper than the basic salvation message

-that's what they hear every Sunday at church so they don't think there is much more to their faith than that

-but God has so much more for us

[Heb 6:1](#) Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God

-it is not God's plan for us to have the gospel spoon fed to us each week

-church should be a place where believers meet to be strengthened in their faith and taught the Word so they can be prepared to live out their faith from Sunday to Sunday

V.13-14

-I believe the enemy has done a good job of lulling countless thousands of church going people to sleep

-they really don't think that anything more is expected of them in their spiritual life than going to church one hour a week

-and when they are confronted about their spiritual immaturity, they become very upset and defensive

-He compares these people to infants

-like infants, they started their spiritual life on milk

-But as time went on, they realized that solid food was a little harder to digest so they just sent back to the milk

-a parent knows that a child cannot be healthy for long only being given milk

-the milk may have enough nutrients to keep the child alive but not enough to cause any real growth

-it is the same way with spiritual food

-knowing the basics of salvation and the gospel will keep you alive spiritually

-but you will never grow in your faith

-and if you don't grow in your faith, you won't be able to help others who are weak or struggling grow in their faith

-I long for the day that parents and church leaders will take the initiative and introduce the spiritual children to a diet of more solid food.