

The Book of Hebrews
Class Notes
Session 15

Hebrews 4.14-16 (Jesus as our High Priest)... The need to... “Hold fast” κρατέω (*krateō*)... Lit., “To be strong” (“Cling to”)... Our confession (*Active Belief*)

(vs.15-16): Even more... As a human High Priest, Jesus experienced our humanness without compromising his obedience.

So...we can be assured... *Jesus is able to *sympathize*... συμπαθεῖν (*sympatheō*)... Lit., “To suffer with” with our *Weaknesses*... ἀσθένεια (*astheneia*)... “Incapacity” “Limitation.”

*We can *confidently* approach the “Throne of Grace.” The ark of the covenant symbolized “God’s Throne” in the Old Testament (2 *Samuel* 6:2; *Psalms* 80:1).

Yet *only* the High Priest could approach the throne...

Jesus has opened full access to God (His throne) for all believers...

Receiving mercy... ἔλεος (*eleos*)... “Kindness “Good will” and finding grace... χάρις (*charis*)... “Gift” “Benefit” ... When we need it! (Expressing gratitude)!

Hebrews 5.1-6 Chapter 5 continues the argument/explanation of Jesus’ High Priestly status...As well as His superiority!

The first four verses of chapter 5 are historical and relate to the order of Aaron (Priesthood). *Exodus* 28.1; 29.1-46.

This is likely to demonstrate that Jesus fulfills all the conditions of high-priesthood...

*The Priests are intermediaries between God and humankind.

*The high priest is a representative of man...chosen from among men... This is how/why he can act and plead on their behalf.

* He *is appointed* καθιστάνω (*kathistanō*)... Lit., “To set down” “Put in place” A passive verb implying that the appointment of the high priest is made by God.

*As appointed by God, as a mediator, his work is to act on God’s behalf.

*His purpose is *to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins*.

(v2): After general descriptions...Now more specific descriptions...The Priest deals “Gently” ... μετριοπαθεῖν (*metriopatheō*)... “To exercise moderation”

(v3): As a human, the Priest must make sacrifices for his sins... *Leviticus* 16.11...Not so Jesus!

(vs.5-6): Again, the priesthood is an honor and is *given by God*.

Beginning in v.5, comparisons will be made between Jesus and the (High) Priesthood.

Jesus began His ministry by God’s call... More—Jesus is the *Son of God*! ...*Psalms* 2.7. and *Psalms* 110.4.

With these passages, Hebrews join together two great truths about Jesus...Jesus is the Davidic heir...The promised coming King to rule.

And...This ruler will also be a Priest. Jesus is truly a Priest-King! Similar to...Melchizedek... *Genesis 14.18-20*.

Melchizedek was a priest and king who blessed Abraham and was given offerings from Abraham.

Significantly...Melchizedek was not from Aaron's lineage...Like Jesus! And Jesus—unlike

Melchizedek and other priest-kings---Jesus is forever!

Hebrews 5.7-10 Now the focus is on Jesus' mission while on earth...More confirmations of His qualification as a true Priest-King.

As a priest—Jesus made offerings...His prayers and petitions to God! As well as His “loud cries” (?)

Gethsemane? Likely those reflected in *Psalms 22.24* from the cross! Jesus' cries were our salvation! God heard Jesus' cries...Jesus was obedient unto death...*Philippians 2.8*...Jesus was raised from death!

(vs.8-11): Jesus' obedient suffering “Perfecting” Him... τελειόω (*teleioō*)... “To bring to completeness, wholeness”

Through His obedience as the Son, Jesus was “made perfect” for His role as Lord and High Priest!

Jesus experienced and demonstrated, as *true man*, what it is to obey the will of the Heavenly Father!

Questions and Applications...

“As God's eternal Son, Jesus demonstrated complete obedience to the Father through His suffering. Just as a test may show that a student has perfect or complete knowledge of a topic, the cross showed that Jesus completely obeyed the Father's will. Jesus' Passion led to His exaltation and glory following the resurrection.” (*The Lutheran Study Bible*. Concordia)