

A STUDY IN HEBREWS

Week 4: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Introduction

Have you ever gained access to a place or person because someone else let you in? Maybe you got a backstage pass at a concert, maybe someone invited you to the cool kids table, or maybe someone helped you get a new job somewhere you always wanted to work. The writer of Hebrews continues to build on the idea of Jesus being better. This week, we learn how Jesus is a better priest- that is, someone who ensures that we have access to God. We explore Jesus as the sympathetic High Priest, appointed by the Father.

What is one major point that stuck out to you from this week's message? (Write your response below)

Week 4

Theme: Jesus is our Great High Priest

We learned last week that the term "priest" literally means "bridge-builder." If a priest is someone appointed by God the Father to be an intermediary between us and Him, then Jesus has become that bridge-builder for all who believe in Him.

The author declares to us that Jesus is a High Priest* who sympathizes with us. In what ways can Jesus relate with us? How does this make Him a better priest for us?

Jesus, having become human in the incarnation, has not stopped being human in His death and resurrection. He is fully God and fully man. He can truly empathize with us and is thereby the superior mediator for us before God.

How does knowing that Jesus can sympathize with your weaknesses and temptations impact your faith?

The author invites the reader to draw near to the throne of grace with confidence in order to find mercy and help in time of need.

What does it mean to come boldly before the throne of God? What does it look like?

When is it difficult for you to come “boldly” to the throne of God? Why?

Why is it that followers of Jesus can speak honestly and openly before the God of the universe?

- Read Hebrews 5:7 - 10
- Luke 22:39 – 46
- Matthew 6:5-15

During His life on earth, Jesus offered up intense, heartfelt, reverent and submissive prayers to God the Father. His perfect obedience (learned through what He suffered) formed the basis for His prayers being answered and essentially made Him the perfect source of salvation.

How can we learn from and, more importantly, lean on Christ’s perfect prayer life in times of struggle? How might this truly change us and our life?

How does knowing that we can approach God as His children, because of the work of Jesus, change the way you view God? The way you view yourself? The way you view others?

How will this cause you to begin to live differently? Write at least one way you think this might impact your daily living:

*Though the text clearly talks about Jesus as a high priest in the order of Melchizedek, we did not touch on that idea this week, because we will dive deep into this idea in future weeks.