



# Hebrews 5:1-6

Jesus is a divinely appointed  
human high priest

# The relatable humanity and divine call of the high priest (5:1-4)

*<sup>1</sup> For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.*

- The passage we unpack today shows why Jesus is the supreme high priest
- God chose Aaron and the tribe of Levi to serve the Lord and the people in the role of priests
- Priests serve in a mediatorial role
- Priests made offerings to God from the people for many reasons
- The focus of this passage in Hebrews appears to be sacrifices and offerings offered to God to appease His wrath and forgive the sins of the people

# The relatable humanity and divine call of the high priest (5:1-4)

## **Applying this to Jesus as the “great high priest”**

- Jesus, as the God/Man, is a human high priest
- Jesus is the great high priest who presents Himself to God as the final sacrifice of atonement
  - Jesus doesn't “Get us” in our sin and accept us in our sin so that there is no fruit of repentance and transformation
  - Jesus is a friend of tax collectors and sinners because they know they are sinners in need of forgiveness and transformation

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<sup>2</sup> *He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.* <sup>3</sup> *Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.*

- Priests are not specialty human beings formed from superior or superhuman stock
- What are the qualities of human priests?
  - *"He can deal gently"* - a human priest who is humbly aware of his issues with sin and selfishness, does not come off heavy-handed and condescending, but caringly seeks the cleansing and correction of others for the glory of God
  - *"ignorant"* - God uses human priests because they are lifelong learners who seek to learn about the Lord and His ways so they can worship Him honorably
  - *"wayward"* - God uses human priests because they are aware of how easy it is to sin against God by straying from the truth
  - *"beset by weakness"* - humans are completely encompassed by the realizations of inability, hunger, tiredness, exhaustion, emotional instability, sickness, disease, fear, etc.
  - It is for reasons like these that the priest is *"obligated"* to offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as sacrifices for the sins of the people
    - Leviticus 9:7
    - The priests of Israel are among the people and are like the people in struggles and sinfulness
    - They didn't serve as priests because they were better or more holy

# The relatable humanity and divine call of the high priest (5:1-4)

## **Applying this to Jesus as the “great high priest”**

- Jesus is the sinless Son of God, but that doesn't mean He can't understand our weaknesses and sinfulness
- The writer of Hebrews previously communicated the ability of Jesus to connect with His suffering and struggling people in beneficial and helpful ways
  - Hebrews 4:15
- As our Creator God, Jesus knit every human together and knows them mentally, emotionally, volitionally, physically, and spiritually
  - Jesus is the highest example of Biblical compassion
  - Jesus caringly takes the hand of those He loves and restores, guiding them to Himself with repentance and faith
  - The resurrection power of Jesus enlightens and enables His people to listen to the truth, love the truth, and walk in the truth
  - He deals with His people with forgiveness, cleansing, and change



# The relatable humanity and divine call of the high priest (5:1-4)

*<sup>4</sup> And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.*

- The high priest is put into that position by God, not by volunteering or by vote
- Aaron and his lineage are chosen by God
  - Exodus 28:1
- The call of God on the one serving as high priest shows why the one called is to serve with humility

## **Applying this to Jesus as the “great high priest”**

- Jesus came from heaven to do the will of His Father
- By doing the will of His Father, it becomes evident that Jesus is God-centered and others-oriented
  - John 6:38-39

# The royal and priestly appointment of Jesus as Great High Priest (5:5-6)

*<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";*

- The writer of Hebrews quotes two passages from the Psalms to show the royal and priestly roles of Jesus, the eternal Son of God, were given to Him by His Father
- We also see that His roles as King and Priest didn't reach their fulfillment until the culmination that took place in heaven
- Jesus came on a mission that included His sinless life, His sacrificial crucifixion, His death-solidifying burial, His victorious resurrection, and His ascension to the throne of God as Priest and King
- The writer of Hebrews references Psalm 2:7, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you", declaring the victorious work God the Father appointed His Son to do
- Jesus takes the throne of victory as the God-begotten and exalted Priest and King
  - Psalm 2

# The royal and priestly appointment of Jesus as Great High Priest (5:5-6)

<sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

- The future ruler David prophesied would come is also a priest, likened to Melchizedek
- Psalm 110 the passage that has the most
- Psalm 110 is referred to more than any other passage from the Old Testament
  - The only previous reference to Melchizedek is found in Genesis 14
  - There are a total of eight references to Melchizedek in Hebrews, Hebrews 5:6 being the first of those eight references
- Genesis 14:12-24
  - Melchizedek appears on the scene following the victorious battle of Abraham over the kings of four powerful kingdoms
  - Melchizedek is described as the king of Salem and as the priest of God Most High, Who is the Possessor of heaven and earth
  - He appears on the scene by God's design to affirm the victory Abraham achieved was because of God



# The royal and priestly appointment of Jesus as Great High Priest (5:5-6)

## **Applying this to Jesus as the “great high priest”**

- Jesus is not a descendant of the Aaronic priesthood but comes on the scene as an eternal Priest and King, like Melchizedek
- This is an honor bestowed on Him by God
- Turning away from Jesus is nonsensical
  - Spiritual life and wholeness are achieved through Him, and His rule and reign are certain
  - We have nothing to fear

# Questions to Consider

- What is significant about the offering Jesus presents as our great high priest?
- How effectual is Jesus's sacrifice for sin that he presents to His Father?
- How is Jesus dealing gently with you as your great high priest reassuring to you?
- What is the importance of Jesus taking the throne of God as the God-begotten and exalted Priest and King?



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