

## Hebrews 5

**vs1-2** The thought is carried on from 4:15 - Jesus our sympathetic High Priest. Hebrew's unique thought is that Jesus is our High Priest. Because He was to come from the tribe of Judah the Rabbi never considered the Messiah as a priest. The Levitical Priest represented man to God asking the acceptance of the sacrifice for unintentional sin. The relationship between God and man was restored. The priest, being a man, can relate to all that we go through and the difficulties of life. Priests, pastors, ministers are not meant to be isolated in monasteries. They are meant to experience life as others do so that they can relate to what others experience. 'Deal gently' is a translation of word that literally means to not go to an extreme, in this case an extreme of judgment or leniency. Isn't that just what we need? A good priest would deal this way because he was aware of his own sins and weaknesses.

**Vs 3** Speaks of the Levitical priest and the instruction for him to offer a sacrifice for himself first and then for the people. Leviticus 16:6,15 He had to recognize he was a sinner in need of forgiveness and be forgiven. Then he could perform his duty.

**vs 4** A man does not choose the job, rather, he is chosen for it. Aaron was called through Moses and confirmed by the budding almond staff. Numbers 17:3-11 Jesus was also confirmed through life from death. He was called from birth - see next verse. But for us the confirmation of resurrection forever settles the fact. Acts 17:31 Korah, King Saul, and King Uzziah are examples of men who took this upon themselves. Many are in the ministry today that are not called.

**Vs 5-6** Ps 2:7 110:4 are prophetic statements about the Messiah showing this is true of him. The passage from Psalm 2 speaks of His royal office, and 110 of His priestly office. We know very little about Mel and much of it we will learn in chapter 7. Suffice to say he was an unusual character that Abraham paid tithes to and that was way before the Law and Aaron. He held both offices, king and priest. Some believe that he is a manifestation of the preincarnate Christ. This association with the eternal priesthood of Melchizedek is only in the book of Hebrews.

**vs 7** Jesus cried (krauge) an involuntary groan of agony or pain. An ingredient to prayer that is heard is "reverent submission". We only read of this type of prayer in the Garden and over Jerusalem but it must have been so at many other times also. How does that relate to your prayer life? He was no stranger to tears.

**Vs 8-9** "He learned from what He suffered" is a linguistic jingle in Greek, and it should be music to our ears. This was a popular Greek thought and very true. Here the Scripture tells us He learned from the suffering because He met it with reverent submission as opposed to rebellious murmuring. Jesus never was disobedient to the Father, or He would have sinned. In stating that He learned obedience, I believe it means that suffering helped Him to understand what it was like for us to obey in difficulty so He can help us in those temptations. He had never experienced that before. The worlds obey Him. Therefore, He is made perfect, the perfect advice giver, the

perfect priest intercessor, as He has experienced it, like the Levitical priest in verse 2, only without sin.

Now look who He is the source of salvation to, those who obey Him. How are we to understand this? What act of obedience is required for salvation? What kind of change does that make in our life? Vs 10 The Son didn't decide on His own to be our Mediator - the Father placed Him there. Thank God!

vs 11-12 Most of us can recall times at which we really wanted to grow up and do what the big kids do. We would imitate our favorites. Listen to their music. Long for the day we got our drivers license, graduated to the next grade, left home, got married, etc. It is innate to want to mature physically and it should be more desirable to grow spiritually. The Hebrews needed to grab those basic truths and move forward from 6:1. "The main things are the plain things, and the plain things are the main things." Allistar Begg This was a rebuke that they were not even living the basics of the faith. They had been around long enough that they should have been teachers. Some people complain about the simplicity of the word or Bible teaching. If God is not feeding you meat, it is because you are not yet ready for it. You'd choke on it. Enjoy the milk but get ready for meat by growing on the milk and exercising your faith muscles.

By this time they should be teachers. Ouch! He called them lethargic learners. An investment of time and training requires a response in our lives. A life in the word and fellowship should result in a continually deeper walk with the Lord and sharing what we are learning with others. They were considering going back to Judaism to avoid persecution, so it is no wonder He said they needed to review the basics. Mt. 13:12,23-24. The old saying, "Use it or lose it" certainly applies to spiritual truth. If we don't internalize, apply, and maintain the truth we hear, it slips away. Do you know the basics? Should you be teaching them to someone?

vs13 Imputed righteousness, Romans 3:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21 results in a life of righteousness, growing beyond the infant stage. Where are we? What does righteousness in a life look like? 1Pt 1:15 Eph 4:11-16 Phil 1:21 The life of Christ given free reign in our lives is maturity.

Vs14 Discernment is a fruit of constantly working on solid food, a life of righteousness. Practice your sense of good and evil, your sensitivity to the Spirit, to train (discipline) yourself.

A three point summary by Kent Hughes:

Listen with all you have!

Become fully acquainted with the "teaching about righteousness" and living it out.

Constantly apply God's Word to the decisions of life.