

Finding Real Freedom
Series: The Supremacy of Jesus
July 4, 2010 Pastor Bill Bump

In our study of the book of Hebrews, we come this morning to the ministry of Jesus as High Priest.

Hebrews 5:1-10 (NLT) Now a high priest is a man chosen to represent other human beings in their dealings with God. He presents their gifts to God and offers their sacrifices for sins. And because he is human, he is able to deal gently with the people, though they are ignorant and wayward, for he is subject to the same weaknesses they have. That is why he has to offer sacrifices, both for their sins and for his own sins. And no one can become a high priest simply because he wants such an honor. He has to be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was. That is why Christ did not exalt himself to become High Priest. No, he was chosen by God, who said to him, "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father." And in another passage God said to him, "You are a priest forever in the line Melchizedek." While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could deliver him out of death. And God heard his prayers because of his reverence for God. So even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him. And God designated him to be a High Priest in the line of Melchizedek.

Two qualifications of a High Priest:

- A. The High Priest must be appointed by God.
- B. The High Priest must be sympathetic with human weakness.

We need the ministry of our High Priest, an intermediary between God and man, to help us when we are misguided.

It is the ministry of our High Priest that helps us deal with our accumulation of sins.

Our High Priest deals with our sins and cleanses us so that day after day, we awake renewed, confident that what happened yesterday has been forgiven.

In the choice Jesus made to willingly go to the cross, he became a perfect and effective sacrifice for us.

Our response to Jesus being our High Priest:

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NLT) That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptation we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.

Two responses:

A. Our first response is to cling to him and never stop trusting him.

B. Our second response is to come boldly to throne of our gracious God.

CONCLUSION:

When we respond in these ways, we find not only God's acceptance, but also his power to begin to do something about those things that are failure-ridden and weak in our lives.