

Jesus Came to Be Our Great High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10 ▪ December 24, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

Jesus came to be our great high priest.

In His humanity Jesus is uniquely able to sympathize with our weakness.

Jesus is more than our high priest. He is our high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 4:14–5:10

^[14] Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ^[15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ^[16] Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

^[1] 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. ^[2] He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ^[3] Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ^[4] And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

^[5] 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";
^[6] as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek."

^[7] In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ^[8] Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ^[9] And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ^[10] being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: When you think of a priest what sort of thoughts come to mind?

Read: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Discuss:

1. In verses 14 and 16 we are encouraged to "hold fast our confession" and "with confidence draw near." What correlating reasons are given that we should choose such a course of action? In what ways does Jesus' experience here on earth give you greater confidence in Him?
2. Verse 15 says Jesus "was tempted in every respect as we are." How should we understand that statement? Do you think Jesus' never surrendering to sin made His temptation more than we experience? Why or why not?
3. In both 4:15 and 5:2 the author uses the word "weakness." Given the context of each of those verses, what is the author referring to when he speaks of this "weakness"? How does it encourage you to know that Jesus can sympathize with our condition?
4. Verse 6 describes Jesus as a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. What is your understanding of that title? (*Consider Genesis 14:18, Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 7:1-10*) Why is it important that Jesus' priesthood is according to order of Melchizedek and not Aaron? (*See Hebrews 7:11-25, noting especially v. 25.*)
5. Jesus' earthly struggles are summarized in Hebrews 4:7-9. What, if anything, about Jesus' experiences described in these verses stands out to you? How does Jesus' role as our high priest and His experiences here on earth offer humanity meaningful hope?

Apply: What have you learned or been reminded of Jesus that has deepened your appreciation for Him coming down and living among us?

Pray: Ask God to fill our minds with understanding about the mighty things Christ has done for us and fill our hearts with praise.