

The Gift of the Son: A High Priest

December 11, 2016

Open: Why do so many people fear death?

Read: Hebrews 2:14-18

Discuss:

1. According to verses 14-15, why did Jesus partake of "flesh and blood"? Why does Jesus' death seem an unlikely way for Him to achieve victory over the Devil?
2. Verse 14 says the Devil has the "power of death." However, according to Genesis 2:16-17, by whose authority was death brought into the world? What, then, does it mean that Satan has the power of death? Why is the one who is saved by faith in Jesus delivered from this power?
3. How does the Devil still influence people toward spiritual death (eternal separation from God)? (See *Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44.*) What would be some examples of how he does this? How can we fight against this strategy of the Devil in the lives of unbelievers?
4. As verse 16 tells us, salvation through Christ is available only to *people*, not to fallen angels (demons). Why do you think the writer of Hebrews wants us to understand this fact? What would be an appropriate response to this truth?
5. According to verse 17, why was Jesus "made like his brothers in every respect"? What is the role of a priest? (See *Hebrews 5:1*) What makes Jesus different from all previous priests?
6. Look up the word "propitiation" in a dictionary. As a priest, Jesus made "propitiation for the sins of the people" (v. 17). How was Jesus able to do this? (See also *Romans 3:21-23*) How does this add joy to your understanding of God's deliverance?
7. According to Hebrews 4:14-16, in being made like His "brothers," Jesus experienced temptations in every area that we might, yet without sinning. How does this especially equip Jesus to help us in our temptation? How can this truth encourage you in your spiritual battles?

Apply: How would you summarize the implications for our lives that Jesus was our High Priest? What is one change that you should make in the way you think or act as a result of this truth?

Pray: Pray for those you know who are still trapped in spiritual death, that over this Christmas Season they might be set free from the power of death.



What's inside
THE BOX?

Hebrews 2:14-18

^[14] Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ^[15] and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ^[16] For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

^[17] Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ^[18] For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (ESV)