

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



5. The High Priest in God's House

(Leader's Notes)

Introduction

Have you ever felt so discouraged that you wanted to give up following the Lord? In the Book of Hebrews we are urged not to give up, because we have a High Priest who understands us and can help us in time of need.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

- ❖ What two things are we urged to do? Hebrews 4:14, 16
*(To hold firmly to the faith we profess.
To approach the throne of grace to find mercy and grace.)*
- ❖ Compare the similarities and differences between Jesus and the High Priest in the Old Testament, in their qualifications and also their attitudes. Compare Hebrews 5:1 and 5:4-5, then compare 5:2-3 and 4:15, 5:7-8.
*(Qualifications – The High Priest must be selected from among men and he appointed by God. Jesus fulfilled both of these requirements.
Attitudes – The High Priest was to deal gently with sinners as he was also a sinner. Jesus can deal gently with us because he has also been tempted in every way like us, and gone through suffering. The difference is that Jesus did not sin.)*

Jesus is the High Priest over God's House, but we are called to be a 'royal priesthood'. "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5

- ❖ What is our role as 'priests in God's House'? What can we learn from the life of Jesus?
(Just as a priest would represent the people before God, so we are to intercede for others. Sometimes we criticize and condemn others, even though we do wrong ourselves! Jesus does not do this, even though he never sinned. Let's learn from his example.)
- ❖ In v8 it says Jesus 'learned obedience from what he suffered'. What do you think this means?
(It is not saying that Jesus learnt to be obedient because he suffered, rather it means that his willingness to be obedient was tested through suffering and he passed the test.)
- ❖ God also allows us to face tests to see if we will be obedient to him. Can you think of anyone in the Bible who was tested, but failed the test?
- ❖ What should our attitude and response be to the tests that come into our lives? See James 1:2-3, 12, 1 Peter 4:1-2, 5:10
(No-one likes tests, suffering and difficulties. However this makes us strong and firm, and deals with sin in our lives. As we understand this we should be glad God allows us to go through these times.)

For Sharing

The greatest test Jesus faced was being willing to be separated from his Father and die on the cross. None of us have faced a test that great, but we have probably faced tests in our Christian life. Can you share one with us?

Conclusion

Jesus perfectly fulfilled what God wanted him to do. It wasn't easy! In Hebrews 5:7 we can see that Jesus cried out to God in prayer for help as he faced death. He was tempted just as we are, yet he never sinned. Praise God he passed the test and is now qualified to be our High Priest. As it says in Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need."