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# Sermon Notes

March 5, 2017

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## How To Be a Great High Priest Hebrews 5:1-10

### The Problem of Pain

- ❖ Pain is unavoidable
  - when we are hurting, we search for people who can sympathize with us
  - many who fail to find someone who identifies with their pain plummet into the pit of temptation
- ❖ We find mercy and grace in our time of need by drawing near to the Son of God
  - Jesus, the ultimate and final High Priest
  - Jesus' superior priesthood, makes the New Covenant better than the Old Covenant

### High Priest: Job Qualifications

- ❖ 5:1-4 gives both the qualifications and duties for a Jewish High Priest
- ❖ High Priests
  - were appointed by God

- served as bridge builders between God and His people (mediators)
- were sympathetic with/for those to whom they ministered
- were human (God did not choose angels to be priests)
- ❖ Does Jesus meet these qualifications?
  - Jesus is FULLY human (v. 5)
  - Jesus is appointed by God (v. 10)
  - Jesus is sympathetic with/for those to whom He ministers
    - not only head knowledge
    - Jesus is completely involved with all the "highs and lows" of our daily lives
    - Jesus participates personally in our feelings
    - Jesus deals gently with the ignorant and wayward (v. 2)
  - Jesus offers a sacrifice for our sins (Himself!)

### Overqualified

- ❖ To show that Jesus supersedes the qualifications for being a High Priest, the author of *Hebrews* applies two well-known OT Scriptures to Jesus
- ❖ These quotations were known by the Jewish people to be prophecies about the coming Messiah
  - Psalm 2:7, *You are my Son, today I have begotten you.*

## Personal Application

- Psalm 110:4, *You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.*
  - Melchizedek was both a priest and a king who lived during the time of Abraham
  - unlike the majority of OT Bible characters, Melchizedek's ancestry is completely unknown
  - Melchizedek was a priest of :the one, true God (Genesis 14:8)
  - because Melchizedek's priesthood was an unending priesthood, his priesthood is a better picture of Christ's priesthood than that of Aaron
- ❖ Jesus who is perfect and sinless, learns obedience through what He suffers
  - Jesus submissively commits Himself to His Father and to His Father's sovereign purposes right up to the end
  - as Jesus suffers, He learns the meaning of the FULL COST of obedience
- ❖ Jesus has become the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him
  - unlike the High Priest who preceded Him, Jesus did not need to make a sacrifice for Himself
  - Jesus' sacrifice was once-and-for-all, it did not need to be repeated
  - "The perfect High Priest makes perfect those who accept His perfect sacrifice..." (John MacArthur)
  - those *who obey Him* refers to the obedience of faith
  - the work of God is to believe in Him (John 6:29)

1. What aspects of Jesus' High Priestly ministry are you most depending on Him for at this season of your life?
2. Meditate on Hebrews 5:7-8. As you do so, think about what you know of Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before His crucifixion. How does this picture of Jesus' loud cries and tears give you confidence that Jesus fully identifies with you in your suffering and struggles?
3. In what ways does Jesus' example of perfect obedience challenge you to be more diligent in fully aligning yourself with God's plans and purpose for you in thought, word, and deed?
4. Based on v. 9, is Jesus the source of eternal salvation for you? Are you confident about this? If not, please speak with a trusted friend or church leader to know how you can be assured about this.