

“Consumed with the Blessings... or the One who Blesses?”

Portrait of Our
Perfect High Priest

*Hebrews 11:20-22
part 42*

INTRODUCTION

- one of the great maladies battling the 21st century church

“The thoughts and hearts of weak Christians are more taken up with the good things they have from Christ—than with Christ Himself. Oh, their graces, their comforts, their enlargements, their meltings, and their warmings, are the things which most absorb them. Their thoughts and hearts are so exercised about these things—that Christ Himself is much neglected by them. The child is so absorbed with dolls and rattles, that the mother is not thought of. And such is the behavior of weak Christians towards Christ. Those who are strong in grace are more taken up with Christ Himself, than they are with His love-tokens. They bless Christ indeed for every grain of grace—but Christ Himself is more to them than all these. Christ is the most sparkling diamond in the ring of glory!”

– Thomas Brooks

1. Isaac

- stories and experiences to engender faith

Gen. 22:6-13

- the heart & character of the man

Gen. 25:5-6, 23, 28; 27:12-13, 33; 28:3-4

2. Jacob

- manipulating to get his own way

- Jacob getting “Jacobed” by Laban

Gen. 30:43

- broken by the Lord

Gen. 32:26-30

3. Joseph

- similarities with dad and grandpa

- circumstances that shaped Joseph for life

Gen. 50:19-21

APPLICATION

- a. an observation...

“I think the devil has made it his business to monopolize on three elements: noise, hurry, crowds. If he can keep us hearing radios, gossip, conversation, or even sermons, he is happy. But he will not allow quietness.... Satan is quite aware of the power of silence. The voice of God, though persistent, is soft.”

– Jim Elliot

- b. an answer...

Col. 3:16; Acts 19:18-19