

Hebrews: Better than Your Fears

Hebrews 5

This Semester, we're studying the book of Hebrews to better understand Who Jesus is and What He's done. What we will find is that Jesus is better than anything our world has to offer. This week, the author explains Jesus' role of High Priest, and how His Standing, Sympathy, and Sacrifice allow believers to approach the Lord with confidence.

Read: Hebrews 4.14-16

Intro: Puppy Guy (Video) – This scene brings many questions to light: Why is he **scared of puppies**? Why does he have a **giant face tattoo**? Why is he more scared of that puppy than he is of walking into **future job interviews** with that giant face tattoo? This scene also brings an **astute observation** to light: Sometimes **people have irrational/misplaced fear**.

The Truth is...

- We all have **misplaced fears** in our lives about **people, places, things, and situations** – Susan is afraid of **snakes**, I'm afraid of **middle schoolers**, etc. And strangely enough, even though many of us would call ourselves Christians & children of God...
- We've all found ourselves **afraid to approach God**. We want to **find a solution & fix the relationship**, but sometimes we simply can't. So then what? What do we do with that fear?

This Semester...

- **We're studying the book of Hebrews to better understand Who Jesus is and What He's done. Our world tells us we deserve "The Best" so we try to be "The Best" or we try to know "What's Best." But Hebrews tells us that no matter what anyone thinks, says, or does, Jesus is Better.**

This Morning...

- We're in **chapter 5** where the author describes **Christ's role as our High Priest which allows us to approach God with confidence**. When we consider His **Standing, Sympathy, and Sacrifice**, we realize **Jesus is Better than Our Fears**.

Our Fears

- **Read: 4.14-16** – **Christianity alone** claims that we can enjoy a close **relationship with God** only because He fixed the relationship Himself
 - Again, many of us would call ourselves Christians, yet we still find ourselves **trying to impress or avoid God out of fear**.
 - **So why should Christ's position overcome our fear?**

A Better Standing (5.1, 4-6)

- **Read: 5.1** – Just as **human priests are appointed**, Jesus was **appointed by God**, which guarantees both His **Authority & Ability** to function as our representative
- **Read: 5.4-5 - Authority** – "taken... appointed" Jesus has the Authority to act as our representative
 - **Ex: Getting a nickname** – You have to be given a nickname, you can't just decide "I'm **Cinnamon Buns** now"
 - This is **quoting Psalm 2**, which was used earlier to establish the Deity of Christ, so how is it connected to Priesthood? Paul explains in **Acts 13 that the "today" is not Jesus' birth**, but **His resurrection**, when He was brought into a new role of Priest!
- **Read: 5.6 - Ability** – Through His appointment, Jesus is given the Ability to act as our perfect representative – even better than Mel! This is important, because we've all seen the incredible damage caused by **bad priests/pastors/etc.**
 - **Ex: Read: Num 16.32-35** – **Korah** was so bad, God made the earth swallow him whole

- **App: Don't be Afraid to trust Jesus Christ**
- Jesus is our perfectly appointed representative... But does this mean He is too intimidating?

A Better Sympathy (5.2, 7-8)

- **Read: 5.2** – Just as a **human priest** can relate to his people, **Jesus** is a loving and gracious representative
 - **But He never sinned, so can He REALLY relate** that well? Actually, that **allows Him to relate better** than anyone!
 - Jesus' perfection allows Him to **listen and love** to an extent we can't - **Sin makes us Selfish & Judgmental** when we should be sympathetic
 - **Ex:** This is why most of the time your friend is telling you about their issue, you're either thinking of how to best tell the **story of your similar issue** or you're thinking of how **simple it is to fix the issue...** if your friend ever **STOPS TALKING**
- **Read: 5.7** – Could refer to **Gethsemane**, but the Greek also reflects **Psalm 22**, which is likely a **description of the Cross**.
 - Either way, it literally means Jesus was **saved "out of" death** – He resisted to the point of death & came out the other side, so He's been where we are & more
 - **Ex: If you're training for a 10k** and seek my sympathy, the best I can relate is when **I walked briskly** to my car a few days ago. Instead, you'd want to talk to my friend who competed in **marathons and Olympic Triathlons** because he's actually **been there & beyond**
- **Read: 5.8** – **Didn't learn how to obey**, but what it was to be **involved in obedience**, so He can relate to us!
 - **Ex: Taking care of Charlotte for 6hrs solo** – I know **HOW** to take care of my daughter during an extended solo, but it's another matter to experience it – we **all should call** our parents today to say **"Thank you for keeping me alive"**
- **App: Don't be Afraid to Confess your sins**
- But does this mean Jesus can just nod His head for us?

A Better Sacrifice (5.3, 9-10)

- **Read: 5.3** – While a **human priest** has to sacrifice for himself first, **Jesus gives a perfect sacrifice** because He didn't need one
 - **Ex: Inviting someone along...** because you need a ride – OR **Todd** asking about **Spiderman** & riding along
- **Read: 5.9-10** – Jesus offered a perfect sacrifice because it's **eternal** for all who **"obey him"** aka **"trust him"** or **"those who obey"** which is simply his description for Believers
 - **Ex: Changing Charlotte's diapers** over and over and over VS changing one diaper & her becoming **forever clean!**
- **App: Don't be Afraid that you still have to earn God's love**

App - We have a Great High Priest who is victorious over sin and death. A Priest who offers sympathy and strength in the midst of our struggles. We don't have to fear death because of what Jesus has done, and we don't have to fear God because of what Jesus is doing! Jesus is better than our fears!

- Are you afraid to **trust Jesus** as your Savior?
- Are you afraid **temptations & sin** keep you from God?

Are you afraid you **still have to earn** God's favor?

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. 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. 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.
(Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV)

[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. (Hebrews 5:1-10 ESV)

And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, “Lest the earth swallow us up!” And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men offering the incense.

(Numbers 16:32-35 ESV)