



Sunday, July 25, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 5:1-14

One of the reasons the whole concept of the priesthood is somewhat foreign to us is because our Priest is in heaven. Other denominations and religions that maintain a merely human priesthood suffer from the same deficit: their work is insufficient to accomplish the task they claim to perform. They are unable to mediate a relationship with God that can accomplish salvation for the people they represent. Not only that, but each iteration of a priesthood is an attempt to reestablish a way of relating to God that has long since passed away.

The antidote to such religiosity is passages like this one that highlight how Christ perfected the work of the priest. Because He was chosen by God, He is perfectly able to sympathize with our weakness, yet He is also perfectly able to mediate a covenant relationship with God because He perfected obedience and suffered unto death.

Still, we must respond appropriately to the teaching about Christ as High Priest, because when we fail to do so, we reveal that we are dull of hearing. It is possible to be around the things of God and never really understand or meaningfully engage with what is happening. As Pastor Don said on Sunday, "It's easy to read for the mileage and not the message." May we be people who engage with God not only to hear His voice but to respond in faithful and loving obedience.

Context

The author of Hebrews has already introduced the concept of Jesus as High Priest at the end of chapter 4. This discussion will continue on through the central section of the letter until the middle of chapter 10. The key for the reader is to not be dull of hearing, because if we are around the things of God but remain dull of hearing, we risk falling away (6:1-8).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 5:1-14

“This Is Hard to Explain”

The Nature of the Priesthood

Task: Represents the people before God

1. Must be one of them – sympathetic
2. Must be called by God

In the same way...

- He is called by God
- He is a priest forever
- He is one of us representing us

The Nature of the Problem

- Dull of hearing
- By this time...should be teachers
- Spiritual infants

Discuss

- 1) Why is it important that Christ did not choose Himself to be our High Priest?
- 2) Pastor Don said, “Jesus’s prayers were answered but He still died.” How does God’s answer to Jesus’s prayers inform the way we think about answers to our prayers?
- 3) How would you describe the difference between consent to God’s will and obeying it?
- 4) How does suffering teach obedience?
- 5) How well would you say your powers of discernment are trained by God’s word? How do you know?