

~~Better.~~ Better Priest

Hebrews 4:14-16 NKJV: Seeing then that 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 cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

In the early church, as believers struggled and suffered persecution, they were tempted to return to the old sacrificial system with their High Priest, but the writer of Hebrews encouraged the new believers with the fact that Jesus is a Better High Priest in every way. The sacrificial system was a foreshadowing of the coming of the Messiah and all that He represented and all that He would do. As our High Priest forever, we can always come to Jesus and depend on Him. This is a great message of encouragement for us today too!

Read Genesis 4:1-8:

1A) What do we learn about the sacrificial system that God had put in place from the very beginning as a foreshadowing of the coming Messiah from this passage?

1B) Why did God accept the offering of Abel and did not accept Cain's offering in view of the fact that this system was a foreshadowing?

Read Hebrews 5:1-10:

2A) What was the role of the priest? Verse 1-2

2B) What do we learn about the human priests in verses 2-4?

3A) What are we told about the priesthood of Jesus in verses 5-6?

3B) What do verses 7-10 reveal about the reason that Jesus is a Better High Priest?

Read Exodus 40:1-8:

- 4A) According to Hebrews 4:14, what evidence did the writer give us to show that Jesus is a “great” High Priest?
- 4B) How many curtains or veils did the priest have to go through in the earthly tabernacle? Explain how this is a foreshadowing of the position of Jesus.
- 5A) How does Hebrews 4:15 reveal that Jesus was greater in His perfection than the other priests?
- 5B) PERSONAL: How are you encouraged to know that Jesus is our High Priest who can sympathize with us in every way?
- 6) What do we learn about the Provision of Jesus from Romans 8:1-3?
- 7A) What great words of encouragement are we given in Hebrews 4:16?
- 7B) PERSONAL: How would you explain the difference between judgment and grace?
- 8) PERSONAL: What does it mean to you to know that you can boldly approach God the Father with confidence because Jesus is your High Priest?

ACT: The Jewish people understood how important the High Priest was in their lives. He was the mediator, the bridge-builder, and their advocate with God. He would offer their sacrifices to God in order to atone for their sins, but this had to be done repeatedly year after year. When Jesus came, He was the Better High Priest because of His Position as God’s Son, His sinless perfection, and His provision of freedom from condemnation. We can turn to Jesus, run to Jesus, and depend on Jesus because He has made it possible for us to come to God’s Throne of grace instead of His Throne of judgment! Let’s present offerings of thanksgiving to Jesus who makes it possible for us to receive mercy and grace in our times of need!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe the grace God offers to us through Jesus.

Monday:

Romans 6:14-16 NLT

Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

Tuesday:

Ephesians 2:5-8 NLT

That even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Wednesday:

1 Timothy 1:14 NIV

The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Thursday:

Titus 3:5-7 NLT

He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Friday:

James 4:6 NLT

And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Saturday:

1 Peter 1:13-15 NLT

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.

Sunday:

1 Peter 5:5-7 NLT

In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

