



April 22, 2017

The Superior Priesthood

As we have studied Hebrews together we have seen a recurring theme: Jesus is Greater. The writer has been hammering that message from all angles and Chapter 7 is no exception. This chapter would have been particularly disorienting for the original audience. Although they believed in Jesus, their religious tradition placed a high value on their father Abraham and the sacrificial system administered by the Levitical priest. It was so tempting to go back to this old system of relating to God through an earthly mediator. Yet, the writer presses in and introduces a better system, with Jesus at the center.

1. Describe Abraham's encounter and relationship with Melchizedek. How does the writer compare Melchizedek with Jesus?
2. The word *forever* is mentioned 8 times in this passage and why is it important? How does that compare to a Levitical priest?
3. Matt described three systems of relating to God. Review them together:
 - * Melchizedek/Jesus Line of Eternal Priesthood
 - * Levitical Priesthood (the line of Aaron, sinful people need mediator)
 - * Humanism (No Priest, No Mediator, No Need)
4. In what ways are we like the Jews clinging to a religious system instead of Christ?
5. In what ways are we like the Humanist, defining the rules, believing that we are the center of reality, and insisting that we don't need a mediator?

Application: Because we have perfect high priest who intercedes for us forever, we can put our hope and confidence in him. Matt suggested a few ways this should make a difference in our lives.

Breathe easy because we are not carrying the weight of our sin
Be Grateful because we are living under his blessing and provision
Pursue holiness and obedience as a result of our gratefulness
Worship the one who has given us permanent access to the Father.

Which of these is **not** a characteristic of your life right now? Why? What do you need to believe or do in order to take the next step based on this message?