

HEBREWS 4:12-5:10

The Need for a Mediator: Jesus Represents Us Before God

Memory Verse

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 4:15-16

Real-life Problems

Helplessness—As sinners, we cannot come before a Holy God without a mediator. We must have an advocate to aid us in our state of helplessness.

The Good News

As sinners, we have an advocate in Jesus, who goes before the Father and pleads our case. Therefore, we can have confidence in God's mercy and grace toward us.

Gospel Definition

God's grace and redemption for sinners **through** the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christ serves as our mediator and advocate between us and the Father, enabling us to enter into God's grace.

I. Introduction

What's going on?

REMINDE:

In the previous lesson we talked about how Jesus serves as a substitute for us on the cross when He stands in our place for the punishment of our sins.

TODAY WE'LL LEARN:

- 1) Because of our sin and God's holiness, we need a mediator to advocate for us before God the Father.
- 2) Jesus serves as our mediator before the Lord, pleading for mercy and forgiveness for us.
- 3) Knowing that Jesus mediates for us, we can approach God with confidence, knowing that He will extend grace toward us.

Read

Read **Hebrews 4:12-5:10** on your own.

II. Questions

A. WHAT?

1) Does anyone know the role of the high priest in the Old Testament?

2) Who does the writer of Hebrews identify as the high priest for Christians in Hebrews 4:14?

3) In verse 15, what does the writer say that we should do in response to having a high priest? In what manner should we draw near?

4) In Hebrews 5:1, who does it say appointed the high priests of the old covenant? In verses 4-6, who does it say directly appointed Jesus to serve as high priest?

5) Read 1 John 2:1-2. What comfort does John offer for those who do sin, according to these verses?

B. SO WHAT?

1) How does Jesus having “ascended into heaven”—and who is the “Son of God”—make Him a better high priest than the high priests of the Old Testament?

2) How do you think Jesus having been a human being who was tempted in every way we are (v. 15), aids Him as an advocate for us? Why would having empathy for the temptations of mankind further equip Him as a high priest?

3) Connect the dots: Why does having an empathetic, divine high priest, who advocates for us before the Father, enable us to draw close to God for grace and mercy with confidence?

4) God instituted the position of high priest in the Old Testament. He assigned Jesus the role as high priest in the new covenant. What does that tell us about the necessity for a person having to approach God through Jesus Christ?

5) Read 1 John 2:1-2. How does this verse echo what we've learned in this lesson?

C. NOW WHAT?

1) How does our need for a mediator—along with Jesus' serving in this role—validate the Christian belief that Jesus is the only way to salvation? When talking about this sometimes uncomfortable aspect of Christianity (that Jesus is the only way to salvation) how does the need for a mediator help you explain this reality to non-Christians who may ask?

2) Jesus is an advocate for us in the way that we come to God from a place of sin and weakness. How can this instruct us in being advocates for other people in life?

3) Who are some specific people for whom you can advocate?

III. Closing

GOSPEL BUILDING BLOCKS:

Building Block #5: As sinners, we need a mediator between a holy God and us. Jesus is our mediator who advocates on our behalf before the Father.

Building Block #4: To satisfy God's justice for our sins, Jesus served as a substitute. He took the punishment for our sins on the cross in our place.

Building Block #3: Every person, Christian and non-Christian alike, must answer to God for their lives. Non-believers answer for their sin at Judgment Day; Jesus answered for believers' sins on the cross, saving us from His judgment. Christians still go before the judgment seat of Christ to present their lives as an offering to God as an act of loving worship.

Building Block #2: Mankind has broken that relationship through sin and thereby created separation from God.

Building Block #1: A holy, loving God made us to live in blessed relationship with Him.

Supporting resources

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What things do you think or believe about God that make you hesitate to come to Him with your sins?

- 2) Have you ever thought about how Jesus constantly intercedes and advocates for you before God the Father? How might this impact your prayer life?

- 3) What are the three or four primary cares and concerns on your heart right now that you would like to offer up to Jesus to have Him advocate for you on right now?

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS:

- 1) What makes Jesus an ideal high priest?
- 2) What did you find uniquely comforting about having Jesus as an advocate and mediator?
- 3) How might knowing that Jesus is your advocate before God influence your prayer life?