

Good morning Foothills family my name is Jamin... I am the high school ministry director here at Foothills... and I am so glad you're here... if I have not had a chance to meet you I look forward to doing so out on the patio...

Real quick I want to give a shoutout to the online community... thank you for tuning in... whether in Cameron Park or across the world... you are a part of the Foothills family too... so thanks for staying connected!

Alright... if you guys have your Bibles you can go ahead and get those out and turn to Hebrews 8 that is where we will be camping out this morning...

See Hebrews 8 can honestly be quite confusing at first glance... When I first read this chapter I was like dang what is going on... there is so much...! the author brings up priests... covenants... sacrifices... the sanctuary... Moses is even brought up... it's a lot...

Hebrews 8... as you will soon realize... almost feels like it was pulled straight out of the Old Testament... how its worded... how there are large quotations straight from the Old Testament... how it talks about the law and sacrifices...

But see that is what makes this chapter and this book of Hebrews so important... It brings up this vital reality that to better understand the New Testament... and what Jesus did for you and me... and why it even matters... to properly understand the significance of Jesus coming to this earth... living a perfect live and being a sacrifice for our sins to... to better

understand that and its importance... you must understand the Old Testament...!

You must understand the Old Covenant... when you hear that would covenant it means "agreement"... You gotta understand the Old agreement with God and his people... to understand why the New Covenant... the New agreement through Jesus is so much better... and why it was needed in the first place

Hebrews 8... our chapter of focus... makes it so clear why we need to be studying both the Old and the New Testament... Because without understanding the Old Testament... you would have no clue what the author is talking about here in Hebrews 8... you will see what I mean...

Lets jump right in... look with me at Hebrews 8:1, reading out of the ESV...

1 Now the point in what we are saying is this... So that is a context clue for us as the reader.... that the author is about to summarize something he just said in the previous chapter...

Now the point in what we are saying is this... we have such a high priest one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

You seeing it... There is already some of that Old Testament lingo... **we have such a high priest...**
The author goes on...

one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **a minister in the holy places**, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

Guys this is huge! These verses carry so much weight with them!

You go back to chapter 7... verse 15-28... the author tells us who are high priest is... it's Jesus...

We have a high Priest on the throne in Heaven seated at the right hand of God... Jesus... And he ministering on our behalf in heaven... interceding for us... ministering for us in the holy of Holies... before the Father
This game changer...!

Jesus is the high priest going into the most holy of holies... in the presence of the father... where God dwells... heaven... where us humans can't go on our own because of our sin... and he is ministering for us sinners...

Mediating on our behalf... bridging the gap between God and His people... for you and me... by his blood on the cross... this is amazing... the

We have such a high priest... one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places,
Are you grasping the weight of this?

See in order to grasp what is being said here... you gotta look back at the Old Testament... decipher that Old Testament lingo...

What's a High Priest... ? ministering in the holy place... what does that even mean... It is through unpacking these terms... that this passage will forever change your understanding of Jesus' death on the cross...

See for the original audience of this letter... hearing this would have blown their mind...!! flipped their world upside down... because they knew the significant role of a high priest...

And for the author to call Jesus our High Priest changes everything... So let's unpack that... what a High Priest of the Old Testament is and their role... and how it relates back to Jesus...

So the role of high priest was established way back in the time of Moses...

Now not just anyone could become High priest... see the High Priest came only from the tribe of Levi... specifically from the line of Aaron... Moses Brother...

You couldn't volunteer for this position... its not like the temple back in the day had a website like we do... where you could click the serve button... lighting the candles ministry... nah ... gathering the animals to sacrifice ministry... nah... being coming a High Priest... ooo yes... No! You could not volunteer for this role...

You couldn't earn your way to be High Priest either... getting promotions... moving up the ranks... that's not how it worked in God's temple...

Whoever was the High Priest was solely a descendant from the line of Aaron and appointed by God... just as Aaron was back in the day... if you remember that story in Exodus 2
Not just anyone could be high priest...

So that high priest... that man appointed by God... what did he do? Well he played THE most important role in Israels relationship with God...

The High Priest was... the spiritual representative and mediator... between God and the people of Israel.

The high priest represented the entire nation of Israel before God... isn't that wild! Like no pressure... don't screw that up.... I would not want that role...

The high priest was to serve God on behalf of the people. This man... whoever was the high priest at the time... stood between our perfect... holy God... Yahweh... the creator of the universe... he stood between Him... and a sinful people... Could you imagine that... the significance of this job as a high priest... he was the mediator...

Okay but now what exactly did the role of high priest look like... like what did they do that was so serious... I get they were mediators for God but what does that look like?

Well it all comes down to the high priest's role on the day of atonement... This day is called Yom Kippur... it is the most holy day of all Israelite feasts. It happens only once a year... and this is when the high priest would enter the most Holy of Holies in the temple... he was the only one allowed in this most inner room of the temple... The holy of Holies was the earthly dwelling place of God's presence in the Old Testament... No other man could even look at it... the holy of holies was at the center of the temple and was closed off to the rest of the people by a huge curtain...

Now this curtain to give you a visual... we aren't talking curtains like these little black ones... no... The ancient Jewish historian Josephus... wrote that the veil that separated the most holy of Holies ... from the rest of the temple was around 60 feet tall... 30 feet wide... and about 4 inches thick... made from beautiful fine blue... purple... and scarlet linen... And according to Jewish tradition... it would have had images of cherubim and seraphim stitched onto it... it was massive... just imagine that...

And it was only on the day of atonement... once a year... that the high priest could enter this inner Holy... sacred... room...

So on the day of atonement the high priest would go into this place... to perform a ritual... to atone for the sins of Israel. When you hear this word atonement... to atone... this word is synonymous for "cover"... the day of atonement was the day of the year... that Israel's sins were COVERED by the blood from a sacrifice... That the high priest makes... on their behalf...

That is why this day is so important... and the high priest role was so vital... because he was the one sacrificing on behalf of the people... in order to present them blameless before God...

But in order for the High priest to even enter the holy of Holies... where God dwelled... to sacrifice for the nation... he had to first make a sacrifice for his own sins... so that he could enter the holy of holies...

It was only by a pure sacrifice and its blood that the high priest could enter into God's Presence to make the people right...

Okay but pause... Why... blood... why sacrifices... why does the high priest need to sacrifice to enter into God's presence... in the holy of holies... great question I am glad you asked...

Leviticus 17:11 (ESV)

"For the **life of the flesh is in the blood**, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life."

See blood represents your life... And our blood... our lives... are stained with sin... this is a reality whether you want to admit it or not... we are constantly sinning...

So automatically... Our blood... our lives... are in wrong standing with God because of sin... shout out Adam and Eve...

Our sin separates us from God... we cannot be in the presence of God... because of our sin...

Friends hear me on this... Darkness... In the presence of light gets eliminated...

If the high priest went into the holy of holies without sacrificing a pure... blameless... young bull... for his sins... we would have dropped dead... been annihilated... in the presence of the holy of holies...

According to Jewish tradition the high priest would enter... with a rope tied around his ankle and bells on his robe... so incase he did drop dead they would know so he could be pulled out...

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death...

This is very clear in the old testament...

Think of it this way... you enter a pitch black room... and then flip on the light switch... what happens to the darkness... Its gone... it gets eliminated... it can't dwell where light dwells...

Its the same for us and God... On our own we are sinful... there is darkness in our hearts therefore if we were to enter Gods presence... enter into the light... we too would be eliminated... Darkness can't dwell with the light...

But get this... the only way our lives... our blood... can be clean and sinless to enter the holy of holies... the light... The presence of God... is through... pure... innocent... blameless blood... being sacrificed... poured out... **in our place...**

It is by innocent blood... that our sin filled blood... our sin filled lives... is covered and cleansed.... to enter the Holy of Holies...

The High Priest on the day of atonement sacrificed... a young... innocent... spotless... blameless... bull... He poured out his blood in bowl... and dipped his fingers in the blood... covering himself... he covered his life... by the life of a blameless pure sacrifice...

And it is by this blood... this sinless blood of the bull... that the high priest was able to approach God... because God no longer looks at the high priests blood... his sin stained life... but instead he looks at the blood of the sacrifice that covers him...

And if that bull sacrificed for the priest meets Gods expectations and it pleasing to him... then the priest will live... That is why there must be blood shed... and a sacrifice... in order to come before God... in the holy of holies... It takes an innocent... pure life... to take the place of a dirty sinfilled life... it is a life in exchange for a life...

So on the day of atonement... the High priest he would enter into the holy of holies... with the blood from the sacrifice to cover his own sins... as well as the blood from a sacrificed pure spotless Goat to cover the sins of Israel... and with that blood he would approach the mercy seat of God... Picture a slab of gold. I am sure he was trembling in fear... what an intense moment... life or death

When he got to the mercy seat... he would sprinkle the blood with his finger on the mercy seat and in front of it and at this moment... is when Gods people would be atoned for their sins...

This is what made the high priest role SOOO significant... he was literally covering the people's sins... he was mediating between God... to not let the people from be eliminated in the presence of God... The High priest helped bridge the gap between sinful humans and almighty perfect God...I hope your starting to realize how truly significant the high priests role was on the day of atonement...

BUT... As powerful and significant the human high priest was... As holy and important as the day of atonement was... THERE WAS A PROBLEM... The system of the High Priest... the temple... the sacrifices... the Old covenant... it had an issue... There was a problem with it... Now the issue be no means was God... or something he did. Or the law... Or that the sacrifices didn't work... no... That was not the problem...

See the issue with all we just talked about... sacrifices... the temple... human high priest... is this system that God established... was a temporary system...

It was not that the sacrifices didn't work... but rather they didn't last...

That same High priest that came out of the holy of holies alive ... would be sinning the next day... and in need of another sacrifice... The people of Israel he mediated for on the day of atonement... would be sinning immediately after... If that priest died... another sinful priest had to take his place. And if that priest sinned another bull had to die. It was a constant cycle. Year after year. Blood after blood. Sacrifice after sacrifice. The Old covenant between God and his People... was not the final solution but it was a shadow of what was to come.

This system wasn't bad... God didn't create something bad rather... this system was a shadow of what was to come... that being Jesus... This Old covenant temple system points out our sin... and shows how we need a perfect lasting sacrifice... an eternal high priest...

And guess what... God out of his love... saw our need... saw this cycle his people were in and sent Jesus to be our high priest... Look back at Hebrews 8 the author makes it so clear that we do have this high priest that will forever intercede on our behalf... he says it in the first verse...

We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. 4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a **copy and shadow of what is in heaven**. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." (Exodus 25:40) 6 But in fact the ministry Jesus has **received is as superior to theirs...** as the covenant of which **he is mediator is superior to the old one**, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But **God found fault with the people**

Guys the old covenant... the temple... the sacrifice of animals... human high priests... all we just talked about... Came to fruition and was fulfilled through Jesus....

Through Jesus... the Old has gone and the new has come! Guys Jesus is our high priest...! He has fixed the problem that God found with the people... God out of his love for us provides an eternal fix to the covenant that we as sinful humans... we couldn't uphold... God provided us with a sinless high priest... he provides Jesus... Jesus is our high priest... he is the one who bridges the gap between us and God for eternity...

Hebrews 8:1 says he is ministering in the Holy place... just like the high priests of the Old Testament... ministered in the holy of Holies... where the father dwells... in heaven... on our behalf...

Just has the High priest of the Old Testament... sacrificed for God's people... served God's people... So does Jesus serve God's people... you and me... Christians...

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, AND give his life as a ransom for many"

Jesus creator of the universe... came to be the high priest... to minister for us... on our behalf... serve us... on our behalf.... But not only that he also came to be the FINAL... eternal sacrifice... for our sins.... See the high priest would pour out the blood of a goat for Israel to cover their sins... Jesus is the Lamb that was sacrificed for us... it was his blood that was poured out... through his death on the cross... For those who believe in him. By his wounds we are healed... by his blood we have eternal life...

Just as God looked at the blameless blood that covered the priests' fingers in the temple and let him live...

God looks at the blood of Jesus that covers our hearts when we enter into heaven... the holy of holies... and lets us live...

Are you seeing the parallels... Between the old and new... and how the new agreement between God and his people is so much better... !?
Friends this reality should forever change the way you live... because look at verse 10

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds** and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 **For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."**
13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

Friends the blood of Jesus... is what allows for God to remember your sins no more... its how we are able to get into heaven...

Without that blood of Jesus... we are as good as dead in the presence of God...

The fact that God remembers your sin no more should drastically affect the way you think... the way you talk... your actions... This truth should affect every aspect of your life...

First this truth should affect the way you view yourself... yourself image...
As a Christian God looks at you as someone who was bought with a price... he looks at you as someone who is covered by the blood of the ultimate sacrifice... Jesus ... As a Christian.... a follower of Jesus.... The

scriptures say God remembers your sin no more... you are made blameless and perfect by Jesus' perfect blood.

If God remembers your sin no more... it is time that you start living in this freedom... its time you stop holding on to that past mistake... that guilt and shame you carry from what you have done in the past... it is time to let that go and view yourself as God views you... redeemed! Blameless because of the blood.

So often we as Christians get in these slumps of thinking... how could God love me because of my past mistakes... We think back of the bad things we have done in the past... memories on replay in our heads... bad thoughts pop in our heads... Your life before knowing Jesus often replays in your mind... And we think there is no way God can love me... like I am worthless... look at all I have done... I think we have all been there at some point in our lives... seasons of doubt... I know I have...

But friends you holding onto that past sin... whatever that may be is the **equivalent to you saying Jesus' blood... his sacrifice for you on the cross... the creator of the universe dying for you... wasn't enough...** God remembers your sin no more... you are covered by the blood of Jesus... so let it go... As a follower of Jesus you are have been made new... the old has gone the new has come... by his blood...

Easier said than done... just letting it go... because for some of your past runs deep and there are scars I get that...

So how do we do this... Well I really think it comes down to constantly reminding yourself of who you are as follower of Jesus... This is how the reality of God viewing your sins no more... should affect your thoughts...

See we often replay our sins in our head... our past mistakes... but very rarely do we replay Jesus dying on the cross for our sins... in our head...

And that is what needs to change... you should constantly be reminding yourself you are free from the filth of your past because you are covered by his blood...

If you can constantly keep that in the forefront of your mind... you will live in freedom I guarantee that... Like Just imagine if where ever you went... you saw that scene in the passion of the Christ... of Jesus dying on the cross... everywhere you went... every screen you looked at you saw his blood being poured out for you... how that would affect you?

See this is how we need to live... with Jesus' sacrifice on constant replay in our minds... replacing the thoughts of woe is my... replacing the thoughts of your past mistakes... replacing that regret... with the reality that Jesus is greater than all that...

See... Freedom comes by lifting your eyes off yourself... and looking to the cross

When you grasp that God views you as redeemed by the blood of Jesus... it will forever change your actions... when you grasp this reality... that you are covered by the blood... the only right response is to live a life focused on him. As a Christian... Jesus has made you right in the eyes of God... therefore live like it...

Selflessly serve like the high priest serves us... he didn't have to be our sacrifice... he doesn't need us... BUT... he went out of his way in unconditional love and sacrificed his life for us... so that we could draw near to the father... to enter the holy of Holies...

This is how we are to live... sacrificially... selflessly... the life of a Christian... is to live like Jesus... like a servant...

What ways do you need to lay aside your pride and live like a servant...? Who is someone in your life you need to serve... to love... to forgive... A co worker... a family member... a friend...

"Oh but they don't deserve it"... "look at all they have done to me"
Don't be a hypocrite...

Look at all the wrong you have done to God... all your sin... your lust...
your pride... your jealousy... your gossip... all the wicked things you do...
And look how God responds to you... he chose to give you eternal life
through his blood... even while you were still going against him... God
fully knew you would slap him in the face with your sin and yet he still
chose to die for you.

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ
died for us.

This is the example we are to follow... Live sacrificially like Jesus lived...
what does that look like lived out in your life? Right now... this week...
going in into the new year...

Now this is not easy I get that... living like a servant is not easy...
But god never promised this life to be easy... the Bible actually says the
opposite... there are hundreds of Verses talking about how difficult this
Christian walk is...

The servant of all servants Jesus... do you think it was easy for him to die
as a sacrifice for your sins... no!!... In the garden before his brutal
death... he was in so much stress... and anguish... scripture says he was
sweating blood... as we was crying out to the father to spare him from
this punishment... Jesus went through the hardest thing imaginable...
carrying that cross... So that us sinners could enter into the holy of
Holies... And this is the example we are to follow as Christians...!!
and yet so many of you are struggling to forgive someone who said
something mean to you... you rather stay in your comfort zone and not
be inconvenienced by loving on someone...

You rather snap back and be defiant rather than being a servant...

And that is exactly what the devil wants... "Christians"... who are deceived by their pride... who think they are entitled to an easy life... a self-serving life...

The devil is just smiling knowing so many "Christians" have their eyes not on the Lord... not on the high priest... but looking solely at themselves... at their own wants... having no interest in serving... in sacrificing...

When was the last time you genuinely went out of your way to serve... to lay down your life... to sacrifice your time... your comfort... for the sake of someone who didn't deserve it...

This is the life of a Christian... selfless service...

If your not living this out... something has got to change... there is no such thing as a selfish servant... in the house of the lord... its either your alive in holy of Holies or your dead...

Selfishness has no place in the presence of the Almighty servant... for the sake of your faith... as someone who genuinely cares for you something has to change.

Friends... the light of Jesus shines the brightest... the light of Gods love... magnifies the most... when you lay down your pride... and sacrifice for someone else... and Jesus is the pinnacle of this...

So I challenge you... if you call yourself a Christian... which I think the majority of you do... start living like Christ...

Your number one goal this new year should not be that of a self center one... but your goal... should be to live sacrificially... BE a servant... of others and the most high...

Live a life with the sacrifice of Jesus always on your mind... and it will be reflected in everything you do...

Lets Pray...