5-Day Devotional: Our Great High Priest

Day 1: The Weight He Carries
Reading: Exodus 28:1-14, 29-30

Devotional:

The high priest bore the names of Israel's tribes on his shoulders and over his heart—a beautiful picture of Jesus carrying us. The shoulder stones represented strength; the breastplate stones represented love. Jesus doesn't carry you reluctantly or forget you occasionally. You are engraved on His heart, constantly before Him as He intercedes for you at the Father's right hand. When you feel forgotten or alone, remember: your Savior bears your name next to His heart. He feels the weight of your burdens and carries them with divine strength and infinite compassion.

Reflection: Whose name are you carrying in prayer today? How does knowing Jesus carries you change your perspective on current struggles?

Day 2: A Priest Who Understands
Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; Mark 14:32-42

Devotional:

Jesus didn't glide through life untouched by human experience. In Gethsemane, He fell to the ground with loud cries, His soul sorrowful to the point of death. He knows what it's like to be exhausted, misunderstood, tempted, and overwhelmed. This isn't a distant deity observing from heaven—this is God who became flesh, who wept real tears, who felt real anguish. Because of His complete human experience, He sympathizes with your weakness. You don't need to clean yourself up before approaching Him. Run to Him in your mess, your failure, your weakness. He understands.

Reflection: What weakness are you hiding from God? How would your prayer life change if you truly believed Jesus sympathizes with you?

Day 3: Learning Obedience Through Suffering **Reading:** Hebrews 5:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional:

Jesus learned obedience through suffering—not because He was disobedient, but because His human experience was made complete through trials. Suffering wasn't meaningless for Christ, and it isn't meaningless for you. Through His suffering, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation. Through your suffering, God is perfecting your faith, deepening your

dependence, and conforming you to Christ's image. The path to glory runs through Gethsemane. When you want to pray "remove this cup," remember Jesus did too—but He added, "Yet not my will, but yours be done." Obedience doesn't mean absence of struggle; it means surrender in the midst of it.

Reflection: What "cup" are you asking God to remove? Can you add "not my will, but yours" to that prayer?

Day 4: Chosen, Not Self-Appointed
Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6; Psalm 110:1-4

Devotional:

No one took the priesthood for themselves—it came by divine appointment. Throughout Scripture, those who elevated themselves to positions God hadn't given them faced disaster. Jesus didn't campaign for His role; the Father appointed Him as eternal priest and king. This reminds us that ministry, salvation, and spiritual authority come from God alone. You cannot earn your way into God's favor or manufacture your own righteousness. But here's the good news: God has chosen you in Christ. You didn't select Him; He selected you. Rest in the security that your salvation depends not on your qualifications but on His divine choice and finished work.

Reflection: Are you trying to earn what God has freely given? How does knowing God chose you change your sense of security?

Day 5: The Only Source of Eternal Salvation
Reading: Hebrews 5:8-10; Ephesians 2:8-9

Devotional:

When you stand before God's throne, what will you say? "I was good enough"? "I tried hard"? "I went to church"? None of these answers will suffice. There is only one source of eternal salvation: Jesus Christ. Not Jesus plus your good works. Not Jesus plus your religious activity. Just Jesus. His perfect life, substitutionary death, and victorious resurrection are the sole basis for your acceptance before God. This should humble us completely and comfort us eternally. You cannot save yourself, but praise God—you don't have to. Jesus is the complete, final, and only source of salvation for all who trust in Him.

Reflection: If God asked, "Why should I let you in?" what would you say? Is your hope fully in Jesus alone, or are you trusting in something else?