

Hebrews 5-6 – 12 May 2024

“Are You Ready To Go Deeper?”

Introduction

*Intent of the letter is clearly to show how Christ Jesus is superior to every part of Judaism

*Chap 1-2 showed our superior “greater than angels” God using His power to save lowly man...as a man

*Chap 3-4 shows Jesus as superior to the Law yet He uses it to bring us into rest and peace

*Chap 5 begins to press into the depths of how Jesus fulfills the role God’s always intended for a priest

*But in the midst, Paul stops for 1.5 chapters to explain what it takes to handle the depths of God’s Word

*You know some listeners are flaky, some are flimsy and some are down right faulty, but some are flexible!

So today, we’ll see 4 requirements that will enable us to get into the depths of the Word of God

#1 – There needs to be use of the whole Bible (Chap 5:1-11a)

Read Vs 1-4

1. So here's characteristics of the earthly priests
 - a. He's chosen to offer gifts & sacrifices
 - b. He's a man that can relate to temptation
 - c. He offers for other's sin and for his own sin
 - d. He's chosen of God to do this
2. This is now be compared to Jesus as our priest

Read Vs 5-6

1. Just as Aaron was chosen of God for the role so was Jesus. How?
 - a. B/c God called Him His Son (Psm 2)
 - b. B/c David called Him a priest like Melchisedec (Psm 110)
2. Jesus didn't force Himself into a role that wasn't His

Read Vs 7-8

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane had a legitimate struggle to choose obedience to God

2. How can Jesus relate to us as humans?
 - a. He knows the struggle of choosing to obey God and to refuse what the flesh wants
3. Why did God hear Jesus? He prayed w/ piety
 - a. His prayer was woven with the thread of always wanting to do God's will
4. Notice Jesus went thru the real spiritual life and struggles that we go thru
 - a. He wasn't just declared obedient, He learned it thru experiencing life's situations
 - b. We too continually face these situations

Read Vs 9

1. We're now called to obey Jesus who was the only one to demonstrate perfect obedience to God
 - a. Read Rom 6:13
2. What law did Jesus give us to obey?
 - a. Read John 3:18 & 6:29 – Believe on Him

Read Vs 10-11a

1. Paul will spend chapter 7-10 talking about Jesus as our High Priest

2. Precisely, chap 7 details how Jesus is a priest, not in order of Aaron but in order of Melchisedec
3. Paul now diverts his subject matter to get them ready to receive this deep subject from God

#2 – There needs to be maturity (Chap 5:11b-6:3)

Read Vs 11b

1. Literally this is “you have become dull...”
 - a. They let themselves become this way
2. Being dull of hearing isn’t a condition of the ears, it’s a condition of the heart
 - a. Carnality causes dull hearing (I Cor 3:1-3a)
 - b. Read Matt 13:15 – How do you get back hearing? Ask questions (Read Matt 7:7-8)

Read Vs 12a

1. Not chronological age, but a certain time after coming to know Jesus we ought become teachers
2. In this sense, everyone is to be a teacher
 - a. All should be pressing deeper in the Word
 - b. If saved for a while & all you talk about are the basics, you’re stunting your growth

Read Vs 12b-14

1. God's Word is described in layers
 - a. Learn milk (basics) 1st, then press into meat
 - b. Then every day we need to acquire manna
2. Don't settle for only the basics, why?
 - a. You'll be unskillful with what you do have
 - b. You'll be able to know good from evil
3. How do I mature? "By reason of use" – develop a habit of being in the Word

Read Vs 1-2

1. This list of 'basics' isn't even distinctly Christian – these are fundamentals of all religions
 - a. For the Christian, the basics are to take these subjects & apply Jesus Christ to them all
2. This world has plenty of churches w/ preachers preaching the basics, we need Bible teachers

Read Vs 3

1. We'll push into maturity, if God permits
 - a. Not that God doesn't want this
 - b. It's a note of showing total dependance on God to lead and direct

#3 – There needs to be commitment (Chap 6:4-10)

Read Vs 4-6

1. Connecting these verses to verses 1-2, it means “if you’re not growing, you’re dying”
 - a. If you’ve tasted...now you need to press forward into eating it
2. If you fall aside from following God’s Word, there is no (impossible) ‘Plan B’ to save you
 - a. We all stumble into sin, this is talking about those that would willfully fall away
3. Now who is Paul referring to here; believers or non-believers?
 - a. Is God convincing you that this is speaking of you? Then you’re who Paul’s referring to
 - b. Is God not speaking to you in this passage? Then you’re NOT who Paul’s referring to

Read Vs 7-8

1. Jesus said in Matt 7 you shall know them by their fruit
2. If the ground was given rain but only produced thorns, it’s cursed and headed for destruction

3. Jesus said in John 15 if we abide in Him we will bear much fruit

Read Vs 9-10

1. Paul said that the direction of His words isn't necessarily intended for them directly
 - a. This is too harsh to epitomize them
2. The warning of verses 4-6 is still very serious, just not necessarily for all of his firsthand readers

#4 – There needs to be encouragement (Chap 6:11-20)

Read Vs 11-12

1. Be attentive to believe all that God says b/c we're working to receive the promised rewards
2. *We have* many people that are *good examples* to follow of people that have gone before us
 - a. Personal examples and Biblical examples
3. Notice they didn't earn reward, but inherited it

Read Vs 13-18

1. Like Abraham, we've entered a one-way covenant with God – *We have confidence of help*
 - a. He's the only one holding it together
 - b. It doesn't depend on us keeping it
2. God's grace is what saves us, AND sustains us
3. Oh Abraham has to be patient in watching and waiting for the promises to unfold...but they did
4. "We've fled to Jesus for refuge" – Our city of refuge (from Num 35) is Jesus Himself
 - a. He's within a short distance and open to all
 - b. He's the only option for safety
 - c. Only different is Jesus in available not just for the innocent but also the guilty

Read Vs 19-20

1. *We have the peace* that propitiation brings
2. Jesus paid for our sin in the heavenly temple and that is undoable for eternity
3. Eternally secure, we rest in Christ

Conclusion

So are you ready to go deeper, in Hebrews, with our gaze at Jesus?

1. **Then we need to use the whole Bible**
 - a. The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed; the Old is in the New revealed
2. **Then we need to be maturing deeper**
 - a. Don't stop with the milk, but drive into the meat and manna
3. **Then we need to be wholly committed**
 - a. What does it take to fall away – nothing, simply drift along & find yourself where you don't want to be
4. **Then we need to live with encouragement**
 - a. Remember all the Christians before you that are routing you on to victory
 - b. Remember God made a one-way covenant with you and He will not break it