

### **Jesus is the New High Priest**

Jesus is the high priest of the Christian faith, according to the order of Melchizedek

**Opening Prayer & Introduction:** Hebrews chapter 7 is a rich text that draws a comparison between Melchizedek and Jesus the Christ. Melchizedek was a mysterious historical figure from Genesis 14 who was the king of Salem, and a priest of God. The writer of Hebrews introduces us to the idea that Melchizedek is a typology of Jesus. Like Melchizedek, Jesus was a priest outside of the Levitical system, qualified by His unique calling and by the power of a sinless life.

**Key Idea:** Jesus is our superior High Priest who offers a better covenant than the old Jewish system of laws and sacrifices.

**Icebreaker Question:** Have you ever received a gift or blessing that completely replaced something you previously relied on? How did that change your perspective?

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is a typology? How does understanding this concept help us read the Old Testament differently? Can you think of other examples of Old Testament typologies that point to Jesus?
2. The sermon stated that Melchizedek had "no genealogy" and no recorded beginning or end. How does this mysterious quality make him an effective symbol of Jesus' eternal priesthood?
3. Read Hebrews 7:18-19. What does it mean that the former commandment was "annulled"? How does this challenge or comfort you?
4. The pastor mentioned that "the law was terrific at pointing out our wrongdoings, but it was weak because it couldn't do anything to change us." How have you experienced this truth in your own life? Have you ever tried to change yourself through rules and willpower alone?
5. Discuss the "Jesus plus" mentality. Have you ever caught yourself thinking that faith in Jesus wasn't quite enough—that you needed to add good works, church attendance, or certain behaviors to earn God's love? What does this passage teach us about that mindset?
6. Read Hebrews 7:25. What does it mean that Jesus "can save to the uttermost"? How does knowing that Jesus lives forever to intercede for you impact your daily life?
7. The sermon emphasized that we have a "new covenant" in Christ. What are the practical differences between living under the old covenant (law-based) versus the new covenant (grace-based)?

#### **Personal Applications:**

1. Are there any "rules" or "religious rituals" you've been relying on to feel right with God? How might God be calling you to trust more fully in Jesus' finished work on the cross?
2. The pastor said, "Religion says do, but Jesus says done." How does this truth change the way you approach your relationship with God? Your service to others? Your daily struggles with sin?
3. Jesus is described as our High Priest who always lives to intercede for us. How does it encourage you to know that right now, Jesus is praying for you? How might this truth affect how you pray?
4. If someone asked you, "What must I do to be saved?" how would you answer based on this passage? Practice articulating the gospel message with a partner.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Melchizedek was a legitimate priest of God, but not from a priestly lineage - Similarly, Jesus is our High Priest not because of family heritage, but because of His divine calling and sinless life.
- Melchizedek's superior rank over Abraham - Just as Abraham honored Melchizedek with tithes, Jesus holds superior rank over all the Levitical priests.
- A new priesthood reveals the old system's limitations - The Mosaic Law couldn't save us; it could only point out our sin. Jesus accomplished what the law never could.
- Jesus fulfills Psalm 110's messianic prophecy - Jesus is the eternal, unchanging High Priest who saves us completely and forever.

**Closing Prayer:** Pray that God would help you to remove anything that might be a hindrance to fully trusting in Jesus Christ as your savior and Lord. Pray that God would show you anything in your own heart that is an addition to the gospel...that is competing with the absolute surrender to Jesus. Pray that God would keep you from falling back into rules based religion, and keep you centered on God's grace.