



**Sermon Title** - Always Interceding - A Better Priest: Part 2

**Main point** - As our living High Priest, Jesus is continually making intercession on our behalf to freshly apply his salvation and help to our present needs.

Question - What is Jesus doing right now?

Hebrews 7:20-28

*And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:*

*“The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
‘You are a priest forever.’”*

*This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.*

*The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

*For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law*

*appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.*

Hebrews 7:25

*Consequently, he is **able to save to the uttermost** those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

Acts 4:12

*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

It's these crevices of sin that are the places where Christ loves us the most. His heart willingly goes there. His heart is MOST strongly drawn there. He knows us to the uttermost, and he saves us to the uttermost, because his heart is drawn out to us to the uttermost. We cannot sin our way out of his tender care.

- Dave Ortlund

We continually are being saved!

Hebrews 7:25

*Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, **since he always lives to make intercession for them.***

He accomplished our salvation once and for all at the cross (Redemption)

Now He's applying that work continually on our behalf (Intercession)

High Priest in OT

- 1 - Make the Sacrifice
- 2 - Enter the Holy of Holies
- 3 - Sprinkle the blood & offer incense (apply the atonement / make intercession)

Question #1 - Why is Jesus interceding? Why is it necessary - was the work of the cross not enough? Do we have to be 're-saved'?

Answer - No! Jesus' Intercession just means we're continually held in our salvation status, despite our ongoing sin, through His ongoing application of the atoning work of the cross.

Romans 8:33-34

*Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

Question #2 - Is this suggesting the Father and Son are at odds? Who is He interceding to and against?

Answer - No! Jesus is not arguing against God. He's arguing to God on our behalf against our sin, against our weakness, and against Satan.

Question #3 - How does the intercession work?

Answer - As our sin and Satan accuse us, Jesus, our lawyer, steps in to claim the cross over each failure as our vindicating word, with himself as the living proof of it being paid.

Luke 22:31-32

*"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."*

Question #4 - What is He interceding / praying for?

Answer

- 1) In our Sin - defending our justification (Hebrews 7, Rom. 8:33-34, 1 John 2:1)
- 2) In our Suffering - helping our needs (Luke 22:31-32, John 17, Hebrews 4:14-16)

Question #5 - Does He ever stop? Will He ever cease to intercede for me?

Answer - No! As the one who always lives, Jesus never stops interceding for you.

Question #6 - Can He fail? Will His intercession ever be ineffective?

Answer - No! His blood speaks an unfailing word - If he is for you, who can ever be against you? He saves to the uttermost!

Question #7 - Is His intercession out of obligation or love? Will his heart ever fade?

Answer - Unrelenting love! Jesus' warm tenderness and compassion that he walked the earth with has not cooled one ounce - and his ongoing intercession proves it.

John 17:23-24

*I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they*

*also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

Question - What is Jesus doing right now?

Answer - Making Intercession for you! He's alive, actively applying His atoning work at the cross continually for your justification and help... to save you to the uttermost.

Action Steps

**#1 - Rest & Rejoice in this truth!**

Enjoy what it gives us:

- Confidence - His air-tight atonement is perpetually justifying us.
- Care - His warm heart is constantly for us.
- Comfort - His real-time mercy and help is freshly supplied to us

*Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea. A great high priest whose name is love who ever lives and pleads for me. My name is graven on his hands. My name is written on his heart. I know that while in heaven he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart.*

- Charitie Bancroft, "Within the Veil with Jesus"

**#2 - Rehearse this truth!** - Apply it to yourself & others

1. Yep I have sinned
2. But Jesus
3. This doesn't define me - I'm changed and changing

**#3 - Respond to this truth - PRAY!** (Draw Near)

**Jesus' intercession drives out the 4 things that keep us from praying:**

- Drives out fear - as we see His heart
- Drives out flatness - as we see His glory
- Drives out forgetfulness - as we see our need
- Drives out futility - as we see His help