



Sermon Discussion Guide

04.29.24 Message | Chuck Sackett | Hebrews 7:11-28

Key Scripture (ESV):

Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. 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 7:11-28

Message Highlights:

- Acknowledging the superiority of Jesus changes everything.
 - Superior Priesthood: Jesus' priesthood is unchangeable and eternal, unlike the Levitical priests.
 - Superior Covenant: The covenant Jesus mediates is based on better promises and is everlasting.
 - Superior Sacrifice: Unlike the repeated sacrifices of old, Jesus' sacrifice is once and for all.
 - Superior Salvation: Jesus lives forever to intercede for us, ensuring our continual access to God.
 - Wavering believers have an assurance of the faithfulness of God to the divine promises. In a world of constant change, the exalted high priest endures forever, giving believers the hope that motivates them to endure.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

- Share a time when you faced a dilemma with another individual and needed a mediator. What was the purpose of that mediator? What kind of relief did they provide you would not have otherwise received?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- Why does the author of Hebrews argue that a new kind of priesthood is necessary?
- How does the priesthood of Jesus offer a solution to the limitations of the Levitical priesthood?
- How is Jesus' priesthood described differently from the Levitical priesthood in verses 23-24 regarding its permanence and effectiveness?
- What is the significance of Jesus "always living to make intercession," as mentioned in verse 25? How does this ongoing intercession benefit believers?
- Based on verse 26, why are Jesus' "holy, innocent, unstained" qualities vital for his role as High Priest?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- In what ways does acknowledging Jesus' superior priesthood influence your daily life and decisions?
- Discuss the assurance that comes from knowing Jesus and how it is continually interceding for us. What does this mean for you?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

- How can we apply the truths of Jesus' eternal priesthood in our community and interactions with others?
- What actions can we take this week to live out the reality of the superior covenant we are under?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- In what ways are we called to participate in this Kingdom work, knowing that Jesus' eternal priesthood backs our efforts?
- How can you live out the practical implications of this passage tangibly this week?