



Sermon Discussion Guide

04.14.24 Message | Ryan Wiemelt | Hebrews 4:14-5:10

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

- *Hebrews 4:14-5:10*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- God has anointed Jesus to take on the role of High Priest.
- Jesus relates to our human experiences and meets us with compassion and grace.
- We can be completely honest and open with God.

CONVERSATION STARTER

- What is the mental posture you take when approaching the Lord in prayer? Why? Where did you learn to approach prayer this way?

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?)

We see a large amount of Hebrews 4:14-5:10 focused on the role of the high priest.

- Read Leviticus 21. What are some of the requirements of a high priest?
- Why do you think so much is required of someone who is going to be the mediator between God and humans?

A high priest dates back to Exodus when sacrifice was a part of everyday life to restore relationship with God. A high priest was the one who would perform the sacrifice a person needed to be right with God. In essence, the high priest was the mediator between a person and God. The office of the high priest was a special calling that required a life of holiness, and they had to be ready and ceremonially pure to serve the Lord at any moment. Here, we see Jesus not only stepping into the role of High Priest but being the perfect high priest.

- Read Hebrews 7:11-28. Why is Jesus the better high priest?
 - Jesus becoming the perfect high priest meant that the position of high priest was no longer needed. In what ways did that change the way people would communicate with God from that point on?

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

- We see in Hebrews 4:16 that we are to be confident as we go to God. Would you use the word “confident” when it comes to how you approach God? Why or why not?
- What gets in the way of being confident that God will listen to us and respond with mercy and grace?
- Hebrews 5:9 states that Jesus is the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. What does it look like to obey Jesus?

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

- In Hebrews 5:8, we see Jesus obeyed God while suffering. Have you had an experience where you were challenged to maintain obedience to God in a time of suffering? What things did you learn from that?

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

- In Hebrews 5:2, we are told that Jesus dealt gently with others because he experienced weakness. Every believer will deal with weakness at some point, so how may that help us be gentle to others we encounter?
- The role of high priests was to restore the relationship between God and sinners. How have you helped others reconnect with God? What was that experience like?