

HEBREWS

"NO TURNING BACK"

Lesson 8

Ice Breaker: If you needed a lawyer to represent you in a court case, what kind of lawyer would you choose and why?

INTRO: When it comes to choosing someone to represent you, you want someone who is both qualified and cares for you. The author of Hebrews makes it clear that Jesus is the only legitimate choice to represent you to God... and He is also the perfect choice!

READ: Hebrews 5:1-10

*5:1 Every high priest is selected from among men and is **appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.** 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.*

*5:4 No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. 5 **So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."** 6 **And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."***

*5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, **he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.** 8 Although he was a son, **he learned obedience from what he suffered** 9 and, **once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him** 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.*

Q: What makes Jesus a better High Priest than the one Judaism was offering? (vs. 4-6)

- He is the only one legitimately appointed by God (vs. 5 – quotes Ps. 2:7)
- He is the High Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. (vs. 6 – quotes Ps. 110:4)
 - Judaism's High Priests came and went. Either they died or the Romans replaced them.
 - Each time a change occurred, you had a new guy representing you to God. Some were better and cared more than others.
 - Jesus is High Priest forever! He is the best, He is for us and He is never going away.

Q: If you have someone representing you, you want somebody the judge will listen to. According to verse 7, why does God listen to Jesus?

- What insight does this give you about prayer?
- Jesus' prayers were heard because of His reverent submission.
 - "Not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)

Q: According verse 8 and 9, what role did suffering play in qualifying Jesus to be our High Priest?

- Suffering taught Him how to be obedient.

Q: In what ways do you think Jesus suffered, and what insight does this give you about why God allows Christians suffer?

- Jesus suffered on the cross, but He also suffered frustration in many forms. He didn't get to have His way; He was totally obedient to God!
 - John 12:49-50 "***For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.***"
- If Jesus needed to suffer in order to learn obedience, do you think we can learn obedience without suffering?

Q: Verse 9 says suffering made Jesus perfect. If Jesus was sinless, then in what way did suffering make Him perfect?

- Jesus was made perfect for the job of being our High Priest by walking in our shoes and being tempted like we are.
- He is sympathetic with us... He gets us. That is how He can perfectly represent us to God.

Q: Jesus is the source of eternal salvation... but for who? (vs. 9)

- How is this verse difficult for those whose claim they are saved by faith alone?

APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. Jesus is obviously qualified to be your High Priest. Which of His qualifications gives you the most confidence in the job he will do for you?
2. Do you really pray with reverent submission (vs. 7), or do you ask God to do what you want?
 - a. What does your answer suggest about how well God hears your prayers?
3. Jesus learned obedience from what He suffered. What are you learning from the things that you are suffering from?