

Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 01.25.15

Opener

When you think of Jesus as your high priest, what image do you get?

How is your relationship with Jesus? Choose one. Why did you choose this one?

- I know he is there if I need him
- I have such current or past sin in my life that I feel unworthy to approach him.
- I know he accepts me always – flaws and all.
- I don't know him; I haven't trusted that he saved me from the penalty of my sin.

Read

Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Matthew 26:36-39, 42

Hebrews 5:7-10

Engaging with God in a Group

Pete talked about a “priestly predisposition” toward you. Priests have compassion for you; they are able to deal gently with you, because human priests understand the temptation and consequences of sin. All human priests sin; have you ever thought otherwise? Share your thoughts with one another.

What is your expectation of Jesus' reaction toward you when you sin?

Read Matthew 26:36-39, 42; Hebrews 5:7-10.

Jesus prayed to God the Father in the garden of Gethsemane. Pete proposed two possible understandings of these verses:

- a. He was praying to be saved from the fate of death (saved from actually experiencing death), OR
- b. he was praying to be saved from the state of death (saved from staying dead).
Pete proposed that Jesus contemplated what it might be like to be left in the grave and he chose to trust that the Father would raise him from the dead

despite his impassioned doubts! This was the weakness Jesus needed to experience so he could be our high Priest. This is why the author of Hebrews can say, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”

How do you now understand that Jesus has been tempted in every way you have, yet was without sin?

Has your understanding of Jesus’ faith changed with this lesson? How?

Engaging with God Alone

Consider what step of faith that is next for you. Is it salvation? Baptism? Learning the basics of the faith? Serving? Forgiving? Asking for forgiveness? Leading? Disciplining/mentoring someone? Something else?

Consider what is holding you back from committing to that step of faith. Pray for your willingness to take that step of faith. Ask others to join you in prayer for this.

Closing thoughts and prayer

Pray for each believer in the group to have the willingness to take that next step of faith.