



The Uniqueness of Jesus Hebrews 5

In Hebrews 5, the Holy Spirit inspires the author to continue in his revelation of Jesus as our great high priest. While arguing for Jesus as our high priest, several points are made that can help us not only better understand Jesus, but also better understand the salvation which proceeds forth from Him.

As we noted in our last article, we understand Jesus as our high priest by the work of high priests under the law of Moses (Hebrews 5.1-4). That Jesus never offered a sacrifice for Himself as the high priests of the Mosaic system is significant — His sinless life forms the basis for our salvation (Hebrews 5.8-9) and uniquely qualifies Him to be our high priest. Consider the following about Jesus' unique priesthood:

First, Jesus' priesthood is fundamentally unique in two ways: He is the Son of God (5.5) and His high priesthood doesn't stem from a connection to Aaron (5.6). What greater mediator could humanity have than God incarnate in the flesh, someone able to identify both

with deity (5.5) and humanity (5.7). And while the high priesthood of the Old Testament was reserved for descendants of Aaron, the fact that Jesus does serve as high priest, though of a different order, demonstrates the point of the author of Hebrews — the Old Law has been taken away.

Second, Jesus' qualification as our high priest is genuine. Jesus' time on earth was not a mirage. Rather, He experienced the challenge and struggle of obedience to God. What a comfort to us that our Savior "offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death" (5.7) — He knows us!

Finally, Jesus is the source of our salvation. His experiences in life, though free from sin (4.15), perfected (read: completed) Him in order to qualify Him to intercede for us before God (5.8-9). And, as He obeyed God, He is now the source of eternal salvation to all those who themselves obey Him (5.10).

We have the perfect high priest and savior — may we never forget that!

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