



June 28, 2020
Pastor Eric Wakeling

A Better Bridge to God Hebrews 5:1-10

Who are priests and what do they do?

- High priests must be humans – vs. 1a
- High priests offer gifts (meal offerings) and sacrifices (blood offerings) – vs. 1b
- High priests must be compassionate and sympathetic – vs. 2-3
- High priests must be appointed by God – vs. 4
 - Korah rebelled against Aaron and was swallowed up by the earth – Numbers 16:1-15
 - King Saul tried to act as priest and perform his own sacrifice, God rejected him as king – 1 Samuel 13:5-14
 - King Uzziah tried to act as priest and burn the incense, God struck him with leprosy – 2 Chronicles 26:16-23
- Aaron is the first High Priest of Israel. He is Moses' brother and is of the tribe of Levi. That's why priests are Levites. Priests would minister at the altar, burn the sacrifices and teach the law. A portion of the sacrifice would go to them to meet their needs. The high priest would enter the Holy of Holies in the temple once per year and sprinkle blood to atone for the sins of himself, his family and the nation (Leviticus 16). The words "priest" and "Levites" are used over 900 times in the bible.

Priests are a bridge between the people and God Hebrews 5:1

- Jesus is a better bridge - Hebrews 5:5-7
- Verse 1 – "For" – This refers back to 4:14-16 where we learn that Jesus has a better position than the Levitical priest – Aaron. Jesus is always available to us and is sympathetic to us. The Levitical high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year. Jesus is always there for us and intercedes for us.
- Verses 5-6 show that Jesus was divinely appointed. And not just as a priest, but as a Son.
 - Psalm 2:7 – You are my Son, today I have begotten You
 - John 8:54 – He did not glorify Himself

Priests are compassionate and gentle shepherds of God's grace Hebrews 5:2-3

- Jesus is a better shepherd that suffered for His sheep – Hebrews 5:8

Priests are called by God to serve Hebrews 5:4

- Jesus was called by God to become the source of salvation and the highest order of priest – Hebrews 5:9-10
- Psalm 110:4 – Jesus has been appointed by God the Father to a position at His right hand, waiting for His kingdom to be complete (vs. 1) and He is of the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron
- Genesis 14:17-20
- Hebrews 7:1-10 – King of Righteousness, King of Justice, King of Peace. Greater than Abraham and Levi

Response:

- You don't need a pastor, a priest, a church, a ritual, or a list of rules to connect to God. Jesus is the better bridge to God for today and for eternity.
- Will you abandon the idols and rituals you have created to bridge yourself to God? Will you surrender your life to Jesus today?



DIGGING DEEPER

HEBREWS 5:1-10

1 Preparation

If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him.

"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."

2 Read the Text: Hebrews 5:1-10 & Psalm 139:23-24

Read these texts a few times until you have a clear understanding of what the passage is saying.

3 Contemplate + Journal

Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- What is a word or phrase the Lord impressed on you in this time? Meditate on that.
- According to Hebrews 5:7, what can you learn from Jesus' prayer life? Talk to the Lord about this.
- As you consider Jesus being the bridge to God, open yourself up to the Lord and consider what other "bridges" you have set up in your life as a way to God. Consider idols, masks you wear, a facade you've held onto. Pray this prayer, *"Lord, search me and know my heart. Open my heart to You today in truth so I do not deceive myself."*
- How and what do you feel? Is there a specific situation in your life that relates to this passage today? Pray through this for a moment.

4 Praise + Worship

Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is. Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time.

Song Recommendation: ["The Way"](#) by Pat Barrett

5 Closing Prayer

Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart in this time.

6 Blessing

May you know and believe that Jesus "is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Him." May this truth draw you to the beauty of who Jesus is as you walk with Him and pursue a personal relationship with Him. John 14:6

NEXT STEPS

Your Response Today: Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting “**Card**” to **970-00**

Connect in a LifeGroup: Grow in community together this summer with others from Calvary. There will be some groups meeting online throughout the summer, as well as smaller off-campus groups meeting in-person. Browse groups to join, or consider helping to start a new group using a Bible Study resource on Sabbath, The Lord’s Prayer, Psalm 23, or Digging Deeper in Hebrews at calvarylife.org/groups

Discover More: Learn about ways you can connect to life at Calvary including weekly pastoral updates and online events, find resources to receive care and help through this season, and discover how we are reaching out with the good news of Jesus locally and globally at CalvaryLife.org

RESOURCES

Worship Service Live-Stream: Calvary will not be having in-person, on-campus groups or services until further notice. The Worship Service will be streamed live online each Sunday at 9:30am. Find ways to watch and resources for you and your family on our website at calvarylife.org/live

Family Activities: Find ways to help “do church” with your kids and fun activities to build their faith each Sunday and throughout the week with great resources provided by Calvary Town at calvarylife.org/town

Find Help or Give Help: Do you need assistance or encouragement in this season? Or, do you want to get involved and be available to help others in need? Find ways to receive help or give help at calvarylife.org/help

Ways to Give: Please pray for those who are affected economically by this virus and for our church finances as well, that God would sustain and provide through this challenging season. Please consider mailing a donation to the church or you can give online simply and securely this week at calvarylife.org/give