

MESSAGE NOTES: JESUS IS GREATER THAN AARON

Hebrews 5:1-6 Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people 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. ⁴ And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ In the same way, Christ did not take on 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."

Hebrews 7:3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:14-17 It is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 5:7-10 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Son though he was, 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.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Faith Group Questions

1. Have you ever felt like the leaders of the church (past or present) were unapproachable? If so, why or what caused you to feel that way?
2. Read Hebrews 5:1-3. Sometimes our expectations of church leaders are unattainable. How do these verses help you have more realistic expectations of them?
3. Read Hebrews 13:17-19. What expectations does God have for you concerning your leaders?
4. Have you ever felt like Jesus was unapproachable? If so, why or what caused you to feel that way?
5. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Why are you able to approach Jesus your High Priest in prayer?
6. Read Hebrews chapter 7 to learn more about the "Order of Melchizedek" and list even more reasons why you can approach Jesus in prayer.
7. What can your group pray for?