

Sermon Title- Why focus on Jesus?

Sermon- #15

Speaker- Pastor DJ Vick

Date- Sunday, May 26th, 2024

Hebrews 7:11-28

If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For 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.”^[a]

¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
‘You are a priest forever.’”^[b]

²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely^[c] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Context- Hebrews chapters 5-7 is emphasizing the priesthood of Melchizedek, which Christ is apart of is far superior to that of the Levitical priesthood associated with the Law of Moses. Also, remember the basic meaning of “priest” in the Bible means **bridge** or a bridge to God.

Questions-

1. Which of DJ’s three main points spoke to you the most and why?
2. Christ did not become our high priest based upon ancestry, like the Levitical priests in the Old Testament, but rather in order of Melchizedek like God swore on an oath to Him (Psalm 110:4). How does Jesus having an indestructible life encourage you today? How does the fact that Jesus fulfilled the Father’s call to be our high priest encourage you?
3. How did God’s people approach Him before the time of Jesus? How has Jesus made it easier, or simpler for us?
4. When the author refers to Christ being “the guarantor of a better covenant” what do you think they are referring to specifically?
5. Verse 24 reminds us that Christ is able to save those “completely” who come to God through Him. Wow what a blessing! It also tells us that Jesus prays for us. How would you want Jesus to pray for you?
6. **Are you able to attend the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Open House on Tuesday, June 4th at 7pm (Room 215)?**
7. Jesus was the final and permanent sacrifice for our sins. How is this specifically more supreme and sufficient than sacrifices that were made before His? Take a few moments and just thank & praise Him for His sacrificial love.