



Jesus as Compassionate High Priest
(Hebrews 4:14-5:10)

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

- **5** For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
- ² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.
- ³ Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.
- ⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

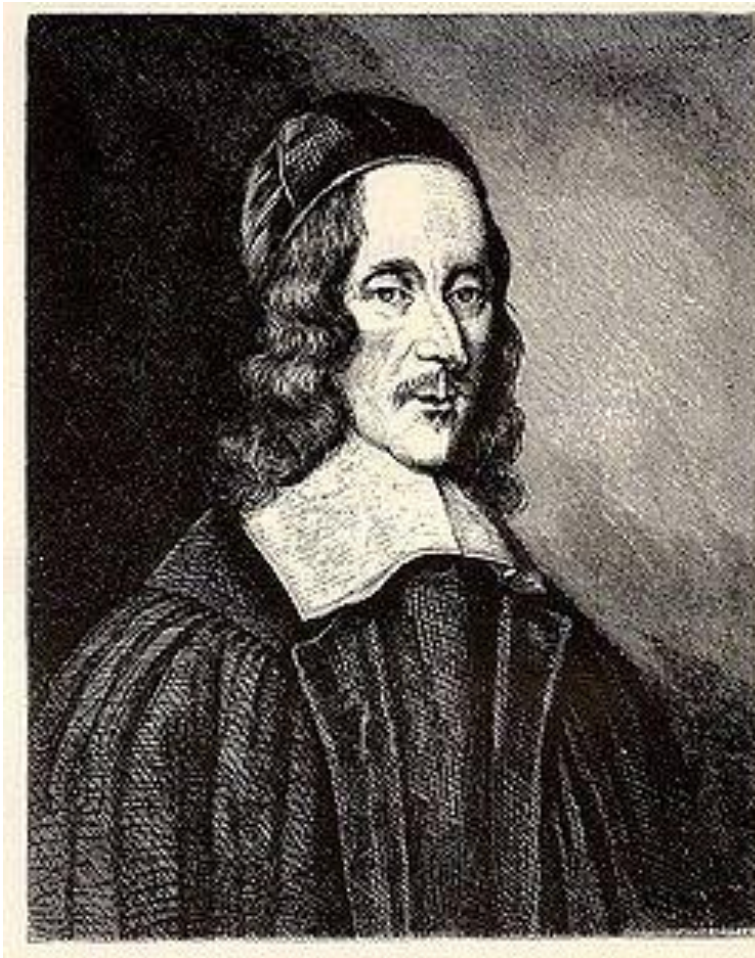
- ⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,
 - “You are my Son,
 - Today I have begotten you”
- ⁶ as he says also in another place,
 - “You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

- ⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
- ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.
- ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,
- ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

George Herbert

Anglican Priest (1593-1633)



George Herbert:

The Country Parson

- **“The author’s prayer before service”:**
- “O make thy word a swift word, passing from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the life and conversation: that as the rain returns not empty, so neither may thy word, but accomplish that for which it is given. O Lord hear, O Lord forgive! O Lord, hearken. and do so for thy blessed Son's sake, in whose sweet and pleasing words, we [pray. Amen.]

Themes We Will Come Back To Later

- Jesus as a priest in the order of Melchizedek (chapter 7)
- Jesus as the perfect sacrifice (chapter 9)

Today's Theme:

Jesus as Compassionate High Priest

- Jesus as *better than*: angels, prophets, priests
- Qualifications of a priest
- Examples from other priests
- Examples from the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the greatest high priest
- Applications to us regarding servant leadership

I. A priest shares in the experiences of the people

- **Moses:**
- Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. . . ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. (Exodus 14:21-22, 31)

I. A priest shares in the experiences of the people

- **Jesus:**
- “One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, ²³ and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a **windstorm came down on the lake**, and they were filling with water and were in danger.” (Luke 8:22-23)
- “That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” **And they stood still, looking sad.**” (Luke 24:13-17)

II. A priest shows compassion towards those who struggle

- “² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness” (Hebrews 5:2).
- “The old high priests had a holy job, but they also needed to be compassionate people, sympathetic to human weakness. Because the old high priests were also ordinary human beings, their own weaknesses and failings enabled them to be sympathetic and to treat confused and sinful people with gentleness and understanding” (Thomas G. Long, p. 67)
- **Eli’s wicked sons:** And if the man said to him, “Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish,” he would say, “No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force.” (1 Samuel 2:16).

II. A priest shows compassion towards those who struggle

- **Jesus:**
- “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect **has been tempted as we are, yet without sin**” (Hebrews 4:14).
- **“Jesus wept”** (John 11:35)
- “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; **when he suffered**, he did not threaten but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ **For you were straying like sheep** but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:21-25)

III. A priest is called by God for his ministry

- “And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was” (Hebrews 5:4)
- **Samuel:** “And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” (1 Samuel 3:10)
- **Gideon:** “³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, ³⁷ behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.” ³⁸ And it was so.” (Judges 6:36-38).

III. A priest is called by God for his ministry

- **Jesus:**
- So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,
- “You are my Son,
- Today I have begotten you” (Hebrews 5:5)
- “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)

IV. A priest intervenes for the people to God

- “For every high priest chosen from among men is **appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins**” (Hebrews 5:1)
- “Then Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar on top of the burnt offering, which is on the wood on the fire; it is a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.” (Leviticus 3:5)
- “The high priest does not save people from their sins—only God can do that; the high priest is but a messenger of salvation, **carrying the symbols of repentance from humanity to God** and returning with the good word of divine atonement” (Thomas G. Long).

IV. A priest intervenes for the people to God

- **Jesus:**
- “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:5).
- “I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.” (John 17:9-11)

Applications for servant leadership

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

Servant leaders:

- Share experiences with others (lead by example)
- Show compassion to others, especially those struggling (lead by empathy)
- Listen for God’s calling and directives (lead by attentive piety)
- Intervene for those without power (lead by speaking up for others)



Let Us Pray



“A prayer after sermon”

by George Herbert

- Blessed be God! and the Father of all mercy! who continueth to pour his benefits upon us. . . O Lord! thy blessings hang in clusters, they come trooping upon us! they break forth like mighty waters on every side.
- And now Lord, thou hast fed us with the bread of life: so man did eat Angels food: O Lord, blesse it: O Lord, make it health and strength unto us; still striving & prospering so long within us, untill our obedience reach the measure of thy love, who hast done for us as much as may be.
- Grant this dear Father, for thy Son's sake, our only Saviour: To whom with thee, and the Holy Ghost, three Persons, but one most glorious, incomprehensible God, be ascribed all Honour, and Glory, and Praise, ever. Amen.