

In the Rock tonight, we continue to work through the book of Hebrews! Just a reminder... the book of Hebrews is written to some people who are suffering because of their faith... the author is telling them to stick it out... don't give up! The overarching theme we have found so far is that **JESUS IS GREATER** than everything... *than angels... than Moses and the Old Testament...*

Tonight, we learn more about *who Jesus is... why we should keep trusting in him...*

We'll look at *why Jesus greater than a guy named Melchizedek...*

In the midst of all that we'll say tonight, is the focus of why we should continue in our faith with Jesus rather than turning away...

**Main:** *We should have faith in Jesus because he is the great High Priest who understands us.*

### 1. JESUS UNDERSTANDS US (4:14-5:10)

Sometimes we feel like we are totally alone in the world... we feel like no one understands *what it's like to be a student... a ball player... a mom... husband... friend... girlfriend... grades... in a pandemic... losing someone... Nobody understands the pressure we are under... no one understands the things we are facing...*

We've all felt like this before... to be honest... some of us feel like that in here right now...

The helpful thing is the Hebrews felt this way... they were suffering, and they must have felt like nobody got it...

The truth is that we have someone who understands us and our problems... Jesus...

Ha... Andrew... he is God... He doesn't count... he is perfect...

Ha you tell Jesus he doesn't count and see how that goes...

But seriously he does understand... the Bible says he does...

#### \*\*\*He was tempted like us...

(5:15) Even though Jesus was perfect... he still *has been tempted in every respect as they were and are...*

The reason he understands is because he faced it... but better than that he won... he didn't sin!

Think about in the wilderness... he was tempted by the Enemy himself and yet he didn't sin but focused on the Scripture... Jesus is the one that we can look to, not just because he is God... but because he was tempted like us...

How? I'm not really sure... the Scripture isn't super clear... but it does say that he was tempted exactly as we are...

No doubt thoughts of quitting, running away were there... but he didn't...

To know that Jesus was tempted as we are should drive us to trust in Jesus... to have confidence to go to him in our times of need! (5:16)

#### \*\*\*He was chosen by God...

Here is where we get into the High Priest stuff

*What's a High Priest? (5:1)* They are chosen by God to offer sacrifice for the sins of people...

(5:1; 5-6) Priests in the OT were chosen by God... that's a big deal... Creator of all things specifically choosing someone for a job... BIG DEAL!

But the problem is they weren't perfect... they sinned and had to offer a sacrifice for their own sin...

This isn't some random dude that showed up to offer some sacrifice one day... no... he is the Son of God... just as the priests were chosen by God... *Jesus was chosen by God* and what he sacrifices is his life!

#### \*\*\*Jesus suffered like us...

(5:8-9) Jesus was the son of God... again, BIG DEAL... but how does it say he learned... *through suffering...*

It even says this is how he learned to be obedient... *through suffering...* this made him *perfect...* and ultimately, this is how he is able to offer *eternal life...*

Usually, we look at suffering as a bad thing... but the truth we find here is – even though we aren't Jesus... we are perfected through our suffering... the bad things that happen to us in life...

*James 1:1-2 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

This means our sufferings... the difficulties in our life aren't meaningless... they are growing up...

***So, Jesus understands us... because he was tempted and suffered like us but  
More importantly... he was from God... he was God!***

## 2. DON'T GIVE UP! (5:11-6:20)

The author's focus then changes a bit... he goes from focusing on Jesus to the readers of the letter... This is a weird passage, but it is saying two things... *grow deeper and don't give up!*

### \*\*\*Grow deeper!

(5:11-14) You should be more mature than you are... but you still need milk (baby food funny ills???) Some of us have said you are Christians for a really long time... the question is are you further along than you were then?

6:1-4... the call is to grow deeper in the faith!

Leaving the elementary doctrine of Christ is not like "getting over the gospel..." Rather, its growing in it... Going deeper in the truths of Scripture rather than just staying surface level...

He isn't saying that one day you can stop focusing on Jesus and focusing on other things... no we focus on Jesus and as we dive deeper into him, we grow...

He is saying... look these are the focuses of the Christian faith... *repentance & faith... baptism & laying on of hands... resurrection & eternal life...* know these and grow in these!

Piper says, "you never outgrow your need for the gospel."

So, Christian... its time for you to grow... an application tonight is that you would pray that God would grow you through his Word and by his Spirit...

### \*\*\*Don't give up!

Then he encourages them and us, to not turn away... to not give up... (4-8)

Just to be transparent... these are some of the most difficult verses in the Scripture... there are about a mix of opinions on them...

If you read them by themselves, it sounds like you can lose your salvation... that you could do something that would make you lose your salvation... your place with God... but this doesn't jive with the rest of the Bible...

The warning is to not give up... because to give up means you were never a Christian before...

To give up, means you can't be restored because you have given into Jesus and fully rejected Jesus...

This does two things... its gut checks u... it asks us where we are at in our hearts... this can frighten us...

The author of Hebrews knew this and wrote (9-12...)

He is encouraging them that he is sure that they are Christians because of their lives... they have done great work for the kingdom and have a great love for his name... all this is written for them to have full assurance of their faith...

### \*\*\*God is faithful!

He reassures them by pointing to the certainty of God's promises... what God has said... God will do!

Why? (18) it is impossible for God to lie... he has made an oath *on himself*...

We say "I swear to God..." because he is greater than us...

*He is able to say that to himself because there is no one greater... he is his promise!*

So, the point is this – the deeper we grow in our faith, the surer we become of our faith...

The author is encouraging them and us to grow and not give up... because God's promise to his followers is true (18b-20)

Don't give up... follow Jesus deeply... grow in him regardless of what comes!

## 3. JESUS > MELCHIZEDEK (7:1-28)

In this section the author builds this interesting picture of an OT priest named Melchizedek... he was like a Moses or an Abraham... a BIG DEAL in the OT!

(1-3) *Abraham tithed to him... his name meant king of righteousness and king of peace... he had no beginning or end...*

Now... this doesn't mean he actually had no birth or death... Rather, it means that we don't see it in Scripture...

But the language is on purpose...

Mel... was a picture of Jesus... a foreshadowing of the coming Christ...

Mel was great... (4) the Jewish people would have known he was great...

But... you know what I'm about to say... Jesus is greater...

11-18 tells us that perfection wasn't possible through the Levitical priesthood or the law... But we have Jesus... (18-24...)

And because we have Jesus... (25)

### TAKEAWAY:

- Take heart because Jesus gets you...
- Grow deeper... don't settle with surface-level faith...
- Don't waste your suffering...
- Trust in Jesus...