

Life Application Notes

Sunday – 22nd (West End)/29th (Central) October 2017

Speaker: Si Munsie

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16 & 7:1-28

Series/Title: Jesus > (Jesus is the greater priest)

Introduction

What kind of image comes to mind when you think of a priest? On Radio 2, Simon Mayo, pretends to take the role of a priest and listens to readers' confessions - read a classic here

[\(http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/shows/simon-mayo/confessions/classic-confessions-goat/\)](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/shows/simon-mayo/confessions/classic-confessions-goat/)

Question: Share some comedy confessions of your own that you may or may not have owned up to previously - you could even message out beforehand so people come armed with their best escapades! (Be careful not to let this go on too long and to keep them light-hearted!)

Melchizedek – A different kind of priest

We see Melchizedek appear in Genesis 14 18-20 and then again in Psalm 110 while David appears to be considering the possibility of a future priest-king who will one day supersede the Levitical priesthood, one in the order of Melchizedek.

What are the parallels between Melchizedek that we read about in Hebrews 7 and the greater priest, Jesus Christ? (*Salem/Jerusalem link, priest of the most high God for all people on earth, king of righteousness, 'eternal' priesthood, worthy of honour and recipient of our gifts, not in the tribe of Levi etc*)

Why do you think God chose to include this character Melchizedek, who only appears in roughly 1000 year intervals, in the narrative of the bible? (*Type of Christ/ points to Jesus*) N.B. Some would consider Melch a 'theophany', a pre-incarnate Christ. D.A. Carson argues convincingly that this is unlikely due to the language & semantics used in Ps.110, though not impossible.

Remember, the role of a priest is to represent the people before God; to bring an acceptable sacrifice to a holy God. What does the eternal Christ now live to do for us? (7:25) What is the difference between Jesus' position and that of the earthly priests?

Jesus – The Greater Priest

'And so in every way, Jesus supersedes the office of the Levitical priests and completes a finished work on our behalf so that God no longer requires any further burnt offering.'

Using the table attached, work through the comparisons between Jesus and the Levitical priests using the passages listed as the reference point.

Question: What does it mean for us that Jesus' 'work' is done unlike that of the Levitical priests? (Heb 1:3)

Question: What does it mean that Jesus is interceding on our behalf?

Question: What comfort is to us that Jesus is not a high priest who cannot empathise with our weakness and was tempted in every way yet was without sin?

Application of a meaty message:

Real-life: Are you a burnt offering? Are you 'trying' to earn God's approval by doing? Romans 12:1 -not duty but as an act of worship. **Worship** - reflect on God's majesty and his masterplan to bring about redemption. Focus on the cross and the finished work of Christ.

<u>Difference</u>	<u>Levitical high priests</u>	<u>Jesus the high priest</u>
Quantity (7:23-24)	Many priests	The one and only priest
Duration (7:23-24 & 9:12)	Temporary	Permanent & eternal
Quality (7:27 & 9:12)	Sinful men	Holy, innocent & unstained
Focus (7:26-27)	Sacrifices for themselves also	Only sacrificed for others
Object (7:27 & 9:11-14)	Offered sacrificial animals	Offered himself
Frequency (7:27 – 9:12)	Sacrificed daily	Sacrificed once, for all
Place (9:11-12)	Man-made tent (tabernacle)	The heavenly greater 'tabernacle'
Means (9:11-12)	Blood of animals	His own blood
Posture (1:3)	Standing & working	Sat down in Heaven