

Title: Learning Obedience  
Text: Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 1-9  
Date: February 3, 2013  
Place: SBBC, New Jersey

In the second hour, we will be in Psalm 13. This hour our text will be Hebrews 4: 14 through chapter 5: 9. I want to give you an exposition of this passage. Reviewing this will help us in the second hour.

**Hebrews 4: 14: Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

### **Christ is our great High Priest**

First, Christ the great High Priest of his people because of where He is—**v14: He is passed into the heavens.** That tells us that he accomplished what he came to do for God and for his people. He came to declare God just and the Justifier of his people—his being passed into the heavens tells us he did it—God is satisfied. Our High Priest came to put away the sin of his people by the sacrifice of himself—his being passed into the heavens tells us he did it.

Hebrews 1:3:...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 8: 1: Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2: A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Secondly, Christ is our great High Priest because of who he is—**v14: Jesus, the Son of God.** Our great High Priest is both God and Man—one with us, his brethren, who are flesh and blood—Jesus. And one with God the Father—the Son of God. Our great high priest is the GodMan. He alone can bring his people together with God in one.

Thirdly, Christ Jesus is our great High Priest because since he is Man he knows and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities—**v15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

**Application:** Hebrews 4: 14: Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

And since our great high priest has suffered what we suffer and knows the feeling of our infirmities,

Hebrews 4: 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Believer, come boldly—with confidence that he will receive us. His throne is the throne of grace. Our great High Priest will give us mercy and grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 5: 1: For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:**

## Similarities Between High Priests and Christ our High Priest

First, every high priest under the old covenant was taken by God from among men—from among his brethren. This is why our great High Priest, the Son of God, became flesh and blood—that he might be taken by God from among men—

Hebrews 2: 11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12: Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee....

Secondly, the high priest was ordained of God for men—v1: **...in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.** Aaron the high priest, alone, by himself, was the only one who could approach God in the holiest of holies on the day of atonement. Aaron alone stood between God and the children of Israel. That is why God ordained Christ to be the High Priest of his spiritual Israel, his elect. Jesus, the Son of God—the High Priest—alone, by himself, is the only one who could approach God in the holiest of holies, in heaven itself. Christ alone could offer to God the gifts and sacrifices for the sins of his people on their behalf. Christ alone is the Mediator—the go-between—between God and the elect of God—his spiritual Israel.

Hebrews 2: 17: Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

**Hebrews 5: 2: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. 3: And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.**

Thirdly, Aaron, the high priest, was taken from among his brethren so that since he was a man like them, he could **have compassion on the ignorant, and them out of the way for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.** This is why Christ partook of flesh and blood like those he came to save.

**Hebrews 4: 15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

The difference between other earthly high priest and our great High Priest is that they had to offer a sacrifice for their own sin. Our High Priest was tempted in all points like us but without sin.

**Hebrews 5: 4: And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. 5: So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.**

Fourthly, no man took this honor but was appointed of God, so was Christ. God called Christ to this honor of being our great High Priest. Christ did not make himself High Priest. He did not receive this call from men. God called Him to this office.

## Differences between Christ and Other High Priests

**Hebrews 5: 6: As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**

Christ is **a priest after the order of Melchisedec**—meaning Christ is preeminently better and different than all other high priests Christ is both our King and our High Priest. Christ is eternally our High Priest—

without beginning of days or ending of days. All others priesthood was temporary; Christ's is eternal. (Heb 7:1-3) There were many high priests; Christ is the final and only High Priest that remains. Other high priests offered many sacrifices which could never take away sins because they offered the blood of bulls and goats; Christ offered only one sacrifice, his own blood and perfected forever his people by his one offering (Heb 10:12) Other high priests were never allowed to sit down in that earthly holiest of holies because they never put away sin, only ceremonially in type; our great High Priest cried, "It is finished" therefore he entered the presence of God and sat down.

### **The Days when he Walked This Earth**

**Hebrews 5: 7: Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8: Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;**

Christ Jesus is preeminently the Son of God. He is the "*only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*", the only virgin-born Son. (Luke 1: 30-35), the only son who the Father exalted publicly to his office speaking from heaven (Heb 1: 5-6; 5: 5) and the Firstborn from the dead.

Yet, he was not exempt from suffering—**v8: Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.** Remember by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners. Adam disobeyed. So by one man's obedience many shall be made righteous. Christ came to be the perfect servant of God to walk before him obeying God as his God and his Father. He came to perfect obedience as THE ONE MAN representing all those the Father chose and gave to him.

Now Adam was made a full grown man, given wisdom and understanding when he was made alive, in a perfect environment. But showing how far superior Christ is to Adam, Christ was born an infant and grew up from an infant, not in a perfect world, but in a world cursed and full of sin. And the verse says he "**learned obedience by the things which he suffered.**" As the servant of God, God taught him and he depended entirely upon God—**V9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.** Christ Jesus perfected obedience and is the obedience of his people. Christ is the Author of Eternal Salvation and he is our Salvation for all eternity. We obey Christ by believing on him, by following him, by casting all our care into his hands continually.

Notice, how he obeyed the Father by continually depending upon the Father.**V7: Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.** Christ Jesus, became obedient, even unto the death of the cross. He completely revered God. Christ trusted God his Father's word, his promise to deliver him when he had accomplished the work the Father sent him to do. He prayed to him because he believed his Father was able to save him from death. And because of this fear—this piety—this holiness of heart in trusting his Father—Christ was heard.

### **Believers with Pure Hearts Obeying Christ**

Brethren, when we are born of the Spirit of God, we are given a new heart, a pure heart, a new spirit is put in us. The only ones who obey God's command to believe on Christ and rest all our eternal care into his hands are those whose hearts have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. And we must suffer. Our suffering is from believing on Christ and resting in him. That is our cross. We do nothing to redeem ourselves it is done. Nor do we do anything to perfect ourselves. By his one offering he perfected forever them that are sanctified. Our work is to believe on Christ and to be used of him in promoting the preaching his gospel.

We only do that by his grace, and he does the work of calling out his sheep and of growing us in grace through the gospel. So we are to follow him in the way he followed the Father—by casting our care into his hands, by asking him and trusting he is able to raise us up from the dead.

### **Thing We Are Tempted By**

Our text says, “He learned obedience by THE THINGS things which he suffered.” He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. What are some things we can expect to be tempted with?

**Our Savior was tempted to turn aside from his purpose by the offers of worldly advantage.** The Jews look at prophecy in the letter rather than spiritually so they were looking for an earthly, political kingdom.

John 6: 15: When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

They would have gladly followed him on their terms—as a political King and with an earthly Kingdom! But his kingdom is not of this world, it is spiritual. So Christ departed from them into a mountain alone—our text says, he offered up prayers and supplications to God. Likewise, in the wilderness satan offered him the kingdoms of this world (Matt. 4).

But Christ refused, choosing instead to suffer for his Father and his brethren. Brethren, flee this world’s offers of greatness. Depart to Christ and ask him for strength to continue trusting him alone. He gives us the unsearchable riches, an inheritance reserved in heaven.

**Our Lord Was Tempted to turn from his Work of Redemption by the Persuasion of his Closest Friends.** His own disciples rebuked him.

John 11: 8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

Peter rebuked him for saying he was going to the cross. (Matt. 16:22-23). On another occasion, his family tried to persuade him to go after what they deemed as greater things for himself. But instead of consulting with flesh, he prayed the Father and set his face like a flint. If we would serve Christ for the good of his people, then we often have to ignore the advice of our dearest loved ones (Gal. 1:15).

**Illustration:** Mary Bell, “Digging a ditch. Follow the Lord.”

**Our Savior was tempted again in that bitter garden of Gethsemane.** There we find him crying with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death. And the Lord sent an angel to strengthen him. Do you see how many things he suffered, tempting him to turn from believing his Father, from doing his Father’s work, but in each one he cast his care into the Father’s hand? That is the only way we can expect to obey him—Christ is our Strength.

**He Could Have Simply Not Gone to the Cross, He was Not Forced to Do so—it would surely be tempting to us to avoid suffering, especially the cross.** But Christ was constrained by love for the Father and love for his people. If we are truly his, his love constraineth us to obey him.

**Christ was mocked and ridiculed by a host of people who had all turned against him. That would be tempting to us to turn the other way.** They said, “If thou be the King!”, “If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us.”, “He saved others, himself he cannot save!” (Mt. 27:42). I am persuaded that most of the Psalms are

the hidden, heart prayers of our great High Priest, during times like that. He said to us, “If they have hated me, they will hate you.” They will reject you thinking their doing God’s service just like they rejected him. But what does our text say he did? He cast himself upon the care of his Father. Then that’s how we are to obey Christ!

We will see in the second hour, the agony he bore on the cross. There he was tempted in ways we can’t even see, to turn from his mission, but we will see he turned his face toward the Father in faith trusting the Father would fulfill his promise to him--**v9: And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY HIM;**

**Application:** Has he given you a heart to obey him? Is Christ your eternal salvation? Do you see the Wisdom of God in not only redeeming us by Christ’s one offering, but also in setting him before us as the example to follow? And also making him our great high priest? He has not called us to make ourselves righteous—he has done that; nor to make ourselves holy; if he has called us he has done that. But he has called us to believe on him, to give ourselves to him trusting him to provide for us, to seek to be taught by him in the things he calls us to suffer. And here is the lesson in all our sufferings.

**Hebrews 4: 14: Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, LET US HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY, AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.**

Amen!