

Title: Called of God (*Communion Sunday*)

Text: 5:1-6

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Hebrews chapter 5. In chapter 4 verse 14 we are told to remember that we have a High Priest who has passed into the heavens. Chapter 5 continues that discussion. Especially pointing out that that High Priest, as it says in chapter 4 verse 15, has been tempted in all things as ~~we~~ we are, yet without sin. That he knows what are weaknesses are. That he was all man. Yet, he was God.

And in chapter 5 of Hebrews beginning at Vs 1, we have the proof of that fact. And this is brought out by relating Christ as our High Priest to the Priestly system of the O.T. There are notes in your bulletin. And I would encourage you to use them as we study God's Word together.

(Read 5:1-6) (1-4)

Let us Pray

Father we thank you for your Word. We thank you that in here we find direction, understanding, knowledge, the truth that will set us free. We thank you for the insight into the Priestly system of the O.T. And how it relates to Jesus Christ. Whom you have told us to consider. So, I pray that our attention will be focused upon Jesus as our Lord and our saviour and our High Priest. We thank you for it in the precious name of Jesus....Amen...

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In this church we gather once a month to celebrate communion. We break the bread. And we let it symbolize the broken body of Jesus. Jesus whose body was broken on the cross when he died for our sins.

And we take the cup. And we say that the cup represents the shed ^{Blood} ~~blood~~ of Jesus. He shed his blood as the atonement for our sins. And the Bible ^{Teaches} ~~does say~~ that the blood is the New Covenant.

And communion causes us to remember that Jesus^{is} the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.

~~And as we think of Communion we are mindfull of the fact that the entire~~

~~message is to remember the whole message of the Priesthood~~

And in communion we become aware of the fact that the entire Bible seems to breath the whole message of the Priesthood, what it means to be a priest, and to offer the sacrifice and to bring intercession for the people. It seems to be the whole message and tenor of the Bible. And then to realize that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. That ~~He~~ is our High Priest.

And it is like God gave us one whole book in the N.T. to bring all of the old testament to our understanding. To help us to see what the whole thing was all about. And that is what Hebrews is in the N.T. It brings the entire thing together. It lays it out before you and says: "that all that God talked about in the O.T. is about Jesus." That is why we are told to consider Jesus. And most of Hebrews is about Jesus as High Priest.

Now, last week as I shared with you I indicated that this section of Hebrews concerning Jesus as High Priest, probable begins with chapter 4:14.. But, we really get into it, here in chapter 5. And the first few verse are not all applying to Jesus.

For example, in Vs 3 certainly Jesus is not ~~being offered~~ being offered for his own sin. Because as we learned from Hebrews chapter 4 verse 15, he was totally apart from sin.

The point of the first four verses of chapter 5 is showing you how ~~the~~ Priest's ministered in the O.T. and what the principles of that priesthood were. Some of which are applied to Jesus. And some are not.

Then beginning with Vs 5 we have an argument to show you and me that Jesus in terms of being traced by direct decent to the O.T. priesthood does not come out-off Aron, but comes out-off a man named Melchizedek. And that is the whole point of the next three chapters.

Now, I wanted to share that with you as we began this section because it is very, very important. ~~and~~ Paul is going to prove to you and to me that Jesus is ~~is~~ a very special Priest. There never has been, there never will be a Priest like Jesus. He is totally different. Yet, there are some similarities.....And the similarities that are presented to us in the first few verse of chapter 5 are there to show us what He has said in 4:15 and 16.

and Because He is our High Priest

~~And that is that Jesus knows what you and I are going through.~~ He has experienced human life, personally. And therefore, we can come bodily ^{before} ~~up~~ to the throne of grace because there ~~we~~ we will find mercy and grace to help in time of need. *And Dear Friends, if you are not doing that, then you are missing real blessing*

~~Now, he is going to show you that that was true of the O.T. Priest.~~

^{Today!}
(1C) So, we are going to examine some principles of the Priest hood as they relate to the experience of Jesus who ^{has} identified himself with us and knows what we are going through. And thus he is a faithful and wonderful High Priest

~~Now~~ So, let's look at these principles. What are they?

(1D) Number one, as to selection.

In Vs ¹ and 4 you have three words. All verbs, which are important to understand.

Hebrews chapter 5 verse 1 says "that every high priest was taken".... Taken..that is the first word. Just write that down.

Number two, Vs 1 says that he was taken from among men and that he is "APPOINTED" on behalf of men. The second word is the word "appointed"... Your KJ says "ordained".... *That is the second word*

Then in Vs 4 it says that no one takes the honor to himself, but he that is CALLED by God. So the third word is the word "CALLED."

Taken....ordained(appointed).....and Called.....

All three words are telling us about the principle of selecting a Priest in the O.T.

(1E) First of all, he was taken, according to Vs 1 . And as the Vs says, "He was taken from among men".....Literally: "Out-off men by way of source."

The point is that he had to be a human being. He had to experience human life, personally. He had to know it. You cannot be a priest without being a man. That is an impossibility. CHRIST WAS A MAN. Just like the O.T. Priest.

That is why it was necessary for God to become flesh, to become a man. In order for him to become our High Priest. The priest were taken from among men. Thus, they would know what human beings experience.

And that is important. Because "in the behalf of" means "that Christ's death on the cross was sufficient for every last man, woman and child."

But, it doesn't work for you until you believe that Christ died for you. The matter of application....Those who apply what Christ has done on the cross are those to whom the blood is made as an atonment for their sins.

So, in one sense it is unlimited. Any last man, woman, and child can have their sins forgiven. Because Christ's death on the cross was in the behalf of all men. It was sufficient for everyone.

But, it only takes the place of, it only substutes for those who believe it... All people are not going to be saved..... WHY.....Because all people are not believing that Christ died for them. Christ substuted himself only for those who believe. He was sufficient, however, for all people know mattaer who they might be.

There is opportunity for every one seatingl in this service to become a believe and be saved. There is opportunity to know you are saved and have the assurance that you are on your way to heaven.

But, listen, christ isn't going to wipe out your rejection. Christ isn't going to egnore your egnoreing him. When he comes again, it is all over. When you die it is all over. He gives you opportunity now. And only those who believe are those to whom he substitutes that atonment in, their behalf. But it is sufficient. He was ordained. He was appointed by God in the behalf of every last man, woman and child who has ever lived. No one in the church service has ever committed a sin that Jesus Christ hasn't already paid for. And you are a fool.....And I use the word correctly.... YOU ARE A FOOL....ABSOLUTELY FOOLISH...IF YOU REJECT WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE FOR YOU.

God never ask you and me to perform for him. Or to t~~ay~~ay to work our way to haeven. He never ask us to do that. He ask us to believe what He has done. Christianity is God doing for man. While all the religions of the world are man doing for God.....

(2F) Secondly, the word "ordined" or "appointed" literally means "to stand down"...It was used to appoint people to positions.

Now, being a High Priest in Israel was a very important position. ~~It was very important.~~ If you want to see how important, then examine the ~~gospels~~ Gospels. There you will find that the Sanhedrian meets quite often. And you can't help but notice how the High Priests control the political and theological life of Israel. These men were very important. They were top dogs in Israel. Very important men.

Now, they were ordained...meaning "Appointed to their position".

Notice ^{want you to} Notice, two things about that appointment....

(1F) First of all, the area to which they were appointed. It is stated in Vs 1 as being "the things pertaining to God".....That is, they would have a ministry towards God on behalf of the people.

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS THAT THEY WERE APPOINTED TO? The answer is found in Vs 1: GIFTS AND SACRIFICES.....

(2F) Now, secondly, notice the need for this appointment. According to Vs 1 it says, "HE IS APPOINTED ON BEHALF OF MEN." "On behalf of men"....A high priest is not a high priest unless he is ministering to people. It is in their behalf. And He minister towards God in the behalf of people.

This whole verse is just belled with application to Jesus Christ. Christ was a man, alright. And Christ was appointed by God in the behalf of all people to minister to God gifts and sacrifices, namely himself. Christ was both Priest and lamb. He is the pass-over lamb. He is also the High Priest. He not only offered himself, willingly, but he was the Priest which killed himself. He voluntarily died.

~~The/Father~~ And the point is that He offered the sacrifice of himself... He was that which was sacrificed: The pass-over lamb.

In I Timothy chapter 2: 5-6 it says that there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus who gave his life as a ransom for all."

The word "ransom" is the same word "in behalf of" here in Hebrews 5....

God is seeking you. You are not seeking God. The Bible says that one is seeking God. You say: "Well, I am really trying to learn about God." No you are not.....Because your old sin nature wars against it. You really ~~don't~~ don't want to know because then you are accountable to him.....THANK GOD, THAT GOD MOVES IN AND DOES IT FOR US.....AND ASK US, ONLY, TO BELIEVE WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE.....IT IS TREMENDOUS.....HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED ON BEHALF OF ALL MEN IN THINGS PERTAINING TO GOD, IN ORDER TO OFFER BOTH GIFTS AND SACRIFICES.

Then, Third, The Word
 (3E) Now, let's look at the word "called"... Vs 4 "called by God, even as Aaron was".....Now, please remember that Aaron was from the tribe of Levi.

And the Priest had to be a Levite. But, not all Levites are Priest.....

Let me say that again. Every Priest has to be a Levite. But, not all Levites are Priest. There were Levites from the tribe of Levi. And you will remember that the Levites did not have a portion of the land when the children of Israel came into the Promised land. There was no land given to them. And by the way, the other tribes were to take care of them. The other tribes were to provide for their needs.

But, these Levites who were not priest ministered in areas of the Tabernacle and the temple. They took care of things. ~~But~~, only those who were directly descendent from Aaron could be a High priest.

Now, you must watch this carefully. Because Vs 5 says "SO ALSO CHRIST". The last word is Aaron. Yet, Christ was not a direct descendent of Aaron...

Do you not understand ~~why~~ why some Jews cannot accept Christ as High Priest? He is not a direct descendent of Aaron. Yet, the O.T. says that a high Priest, one who could go into the holy place, ~~where~~ ^{where} the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat was located. And he was to put the blood of the sacrificed animal on that. He had to be a descendent of Aaron. But Jesus, my friends, was not a descendent of Aaron. He was not from the tribe of Levi. He was from the tribe of Judah. Which is the tribe of the King. Not the tribe of the Priest. And that is a great theological problem if your happen to be Jewish. But he was called.... *In order to be a priest*

You must be called - This is also true of the believer

Are there any examples in the O.T. of someone who was called to be a priest who wasn't in the direct line of Aaron?....YES....THERE ARE....

Samuel was called to be a priest and he offered sacrifices. I Samuel 16.... He was a prophet. But also a preist. And he wasn't in the tribe of Levi.

You see, you either had to be a direct decendent of Aaron which is what God gave in direct insturction in the law, or, God had to directly call you. And that had to be known as a direct revelation from God.

Did Christ ever receive a direct call from God to be priest?....That is the issue.....How come he didn't come from Araron? When all high priest have to come from Aaron. How could he take his own blood and go into the holy place behind the vail of the temple and offer it, if he was not of the tribe of Aaron when the Bible says that any man who gets close to that place is going to be cut-off, is going to be killed. God will not allow anyone who isn't a high priest to go to the holy place. And if you want to read a sad record read about people who tried. They were wiped out in the O.T. God treats his holy place as a very sacred thing.

Now, I ask you. How did Christ go in there, spiritually even, how did he go in there to offer his blood that was sufficient to pay for all sins? How did he? How did he satisfy all the righteous demands of God's law? Especially when he isn't from the tribe of Aaron. That is a great problem. That is what Hebrews is all about, right now.

(2D) Now, the second principle of the priesthood involves His service.

This is also in Vs 1. And it states two things that he is to offer.

The word "offer" means "to bring towards". You are bringing towards the altar or the holy place. Two things. One is gifts. And the second is sacrifices. It is hard to know if these two things are separate. I

believe they are separated by way of lanuage. But it is hard to know. Are the sacrifices the gifts? Are the gifts the sacrifices?

Some believe the gifts refer to incenses. In Lev. 16:12 ~~when~~ the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year. It was the day of atonement. He would offer atonment for the sins of all the people.

But in that passage we learn that he is to offer, also, ~~incenses~~ incenses on the altar of incenses. *Now!* the altar of incenses was in front of the vail that was in front of the Holy of Holies. The Priest was to offer that incenses only on the day of atonement. And he was to go with that ~~incenses~~ incenses into the Holy of Holies. And he was to place it on the Mercy seat. And that fragrance would go up towards God. It was a pleasing and sweet smelling ~~odor~~ *Fragrance* says the Bible. *Now, The Application*

The Bible speaks of our lives as believers being that sweet smelling savor: Incenses to God. That our lives be sweet with the fragrance of Christ. ~~So~~ So, he came in and offered gifts and he offered sacrifices.

Now, that is what a Priest does. The question is: When did Jesus ever offer a sacrifice? He couldn't have gone into the Holy of Holies when he was here on the earth because he wasn't from the tribe of ~~Levi~~ Levi through Aaron. And of course the great truth here is that He offered himself as the sacrifice at the time he died on the cross. *That is what we celebrate in Communion*

You say, O.K. but where is the sanctuary? The sanctuary is not that which is made of hands as Paul will teach later on. But it is actually in heaven. That the whole theme of the O.T. Priesthood was symbolic, looking forward to Christ's supreme sacrifice on the cross. *You see,* A Priest is to offer sacrifice.

Now, I am a priest. And you are a Priest. Did you know that? That is right.....Revelation 1:6 says that Christ who washed our sins in his blood has made us a kingdom of Priest.

We are In I Peter chapter 2 verse 5 it tells me that I am a Priest. And that ~~I am~~ *and you are a Priest* to offer spiritual sacrifices to God.

In I Peter chapter 2 verse 9 saying of christians we are a holy nation, a royal priesthood. Every last one of us are priest. And every last one of us can ~~not~~ *go* directly into the Holy of Holies as it were which is the presence of God, almighty. Go directly to Him. Which is what Hebrews 4:16 invited us to do. Come boldly to the throne of grace.

I am a Priest....because of Jesus being the great High Priest and sacrifice.....

But, let me just add this thought...I believe there is a dual application of Hebrews 5:1 to 4....That everything Aaron was, as a Priest, is also applied to me as a priest. And also to you, if you are a believer...

Do you know how you can have a more effective ministry as a believer?

It is my understanding the principles of the Priesthood. Realizing that you have been taken from amongst men. You are a sinner saved by grace. *Selected, Appointed, Called -*

But why does God leave all these sins and weaknesses in our lives?....

ANSWER:...so you can have compassion on the ignorant and those out of the way.

So, you can identify with people....WHY?....Because you, yourself, are encompassed with sin.... *Do You See The Point -*

The Principles of the priesthood apply to us. We are now priest. And we are to offer sacrifices to God. Romans 12:1 says: "I urge you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service ~~of~~ of worship."

You see, as a Priest *We are* to offer *our* body to God.

In Philippians 4:18 speaking about *my* gifts, it calls them a sacrifice. My money, my possessions are a sacrifice.

In Hebrews 13:15-16 it tells me to offer a sacrifice of my lips in praise and thanksgiving to God. And all of this is the work of a priest. But I do it as a believer..... *Are you doing it?*

(3D) The third principle of the priesthood is sympathy for those to whom we must serve.....Sympathy....Christ has that sympathy. (E) The expression of this sympathy is found in Vs 2: "He can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided."

The word "gently" or "compassion"(KJ) comes from the ^{Two} words "moderate"... and a word meaning "feeling"...."MODERATE FEELING".....

It is usually translated and used in this sense: to deal gentle....with people.....Do you know why Christ became a man?....So, he would have the compassion, the understanding, the feeling ~~is~~ with us. He deals "gentle" with us. Because he knows what we are going through.

Do you want to be effective as a christian and a priest in ministering to other people as well as to God? Remember that God besets you with weakness so that you will deal gentle with people. *Peter 2 Cor 1: 3-4*

(2E) I notice not only the expression of that sympathy in that word "gentle" but, also, I see the experience that produces sympathy. It says in Vs 2: "beset with weakness"....I need experience to have a sympathetic heart. And do you know how God gives that to you?

He literally surrounds you, which is the meaning of the word "beset" He surrounds you with weakness.

It is the same word found in chapter 4 verse 15. Christ was touched with the feeling of our weaknesses. He never sinned. But He knew what human weakness was all about. He was a man.

And we are surrounded with weaknesses....WHY?...So, we can have a sympathetic heart. It is also explaining why our Lord's heart is sympathetic as well as tell us what it is to have a sympathetic heart as a Priest.

(4E) The fourth principle about the priesthood deals with sacrifice for sins.

...And I would like you to notice two things....

Vs 3 says: "And because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself."

(1E) First of all, ^{Priest} he had a responsibility in behalf of the people. The verse says "he was obligated to offer sacrifices".....Once a year the Priest was obligated to go into the Holy of Holies to offer sacrifice for the people. Christ has already done that for us. He had a responsibility toward the people

(2E) Secondly, ^{Priest} he had a continual remainder of his ~~own~~ own need.

It says in Vs 3 that he is to offer sacrifice for himself. The Priest before he could offer sacrifice for the people had to ^{first make} sacrifice and seek forgiveness for himself...And it remained the Priest that he was a sinner, just like the rest of the people...

If you are going to be an effective priest, even as a believer, you must always remember that you are a sinner saved by grace. If you are going to have sympathy and forgiveness ^{any spirit} towards someone else, ~~that~~ you must remember, first, that God loves you and forgave you, and saved you.... *6:10 11:23 STOP*

And we must , also, remember that we are still a sinner. Saved...Yes..
But that is a position with God.....Very important....

(5E) The fiveth principle of the pries~~th~~hood is God soveriegnity in the
choose.....Vs 4 says: "No one takes the honor to himself, but receives it
when he is called by God, even as Aaron was. Just three things here.

(1E) One, God's soveriegnity involves the motivation. Who motivates who
to become a Priest? The text says he is called. Literally: "being called".
It is passive voice....Someone else is calling you. You don't call yourself.

When I got saved, I didnt call myself to christ....God called me. And
God calls you. God calls you to himself. Just like he called the priest.
Not because he was worthy.....The motivation is from the Lord.....

(2F) The second thing about God's soveringty is that it involves the means
whereby that individual even recognizes that call and experiences it.

The text says "called by God"....The little word "by" means "by means of"...
The means whereby I acturally come to God. The ability to come to God.
It is his power that draws me. He is not only the motivation saying: "I
want you"...But he is also the power which draws me to him.

(3E) The third thing about God's soveringty involves that method he uses.

And he remainds us of that method in Vs 4 when he says "even as Aaron was."
God said: "the way I want you to tell who is a Priest, is if he is a direct
decsendent of Aaron.

(2C) ~~And~~ And that brings us to Vs 5 and 6.... Here we have the proof of christ
calling ^{as a Priest} being opened up to us.

As we look at the first four verses, the question is: "How could Christ
be called a priest since he is not in the direct line of Aaron?"

Yet, ~~verse~~ vese 5 begins "So also Christ".....And that is saying that
Christ is a Priest....I know He is a king from the tribe of Judah....But is
he a priest?.....Absouletly....That is what it says on the bases of Veses 1-4.

Now, how do I know that?.....

(1E) First of all, from the ScripturesVs 5 and 6. And two passages are given to us....And these passages prove that Christ has been called as a High Priest.....How do I know that....Just three things here.

(1E) One, I notice in Vs 5, his refusal to glorify himself. Vs 4 just said that no man can take this honor upon himself. Vs 5 says that Christ has that characteristic. Because he never glorified himself.

Philippians 2: 6 says: "who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men."

Christ never paraded himself before people. He became a servant. And the writer is saying that that is the first thing that tells me that Christ is a High Priest. Because no High Priest in the O.T. could ever say: "Hay, I am so great. I deserve to be the High Priest.".....NO, IT WAS BASED UPON THE CALL OF GOD...

Christ also meets that requirement because he never glorified himself.

(2E) The second thing I want you to see is the response of the heavenly Father. ~~It~~ The quote here in Vs 5 is from Psalm 2:7. Psalms chapter 2 is about the Messiah coming as a King. And yet, in Vs 7 which is quote here in Hebrews says: "Thou art my son, today I have begotten thee."

Notice, the writer in proving that Christ was called to be a ~~pri~~ Priest brings up Psalms 2:7 which deals with Messiah as King. Messiah is both King and Priest...One and the same.....

When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist a voice from heaven said: "this is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." MY SON...IS THE Priest

(2D) The second passage, Vs 6, comes from Psalms 110:4....It says: "thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

This reference also deals with Messiah as Lord....But in Vs 4 it says the Messiah is also a priest. WHO IS A PRIEST? The king who is coming... He is a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

^{3E}
(3F) Number three, is the revelation of His eternal Priesthood.

The quote from Psalms 110 verse 4 says he is a priest forever....
There was never a priest in the history of world that was apriest forever.
But Christ is.....

So, there are two issues here which makes Christ different and greater
than all the Priest from Aaron in the O.T. Which is the whole point of
Hebrews. Hebrews is teaching the authority of Jesus Christ. He is superior
to allllll.....Two issues here....

One, is that he is God's son. MY SON?....Vs 5

Two, he is forever.....

Inthose two ways, not one son of Aaron would claim to be a priest.
Yet, Jesus is both God's son and he is also "FOEEVER"...a Priest....

Now, both king and priest are in one person. And that is the beauty
of Melchizedek. Because Melchizedek, are you ready for this, Melchizedek,
who ever he is, and we will discuss ~~this/next/week~~ this when we get to
chapter 7, who ever he is, the Bible says he was both a Priest and a king...

You see, the point that is moving through all of this is that a Priest
from the line of Aaron could never have taken away your sins and mine.....

WHY WAST YOUR TIME PROVING that Christ came from Aaron's priesthood.
Not one of those priest could ever take away sin. All the animals that were
ever sacrificed could take away sin. That is the message of Hebrews.
They were only types.

No, Christ isn't from the line of Aaron. He is a Priest after the order
of Melchizedek.....He has to be. Because Messiah must be both King and
Priest. And there is no way that anyone from the tribe of Levý through Aaron
could ever be a king. Because the Bible says in Genesis 49:10 that the
scepture, the right to rule, shall never depart from Judah, nor a law giver
from between his feet until ~~shiloh comes~~ he who has it will come. Or,
until shilo comes.....Tremendous thing....Telling us that Jesus is the only
one who can help you....

Let's close in prayer