

THE QUALIFIED GREAT HIGH PRIEST — HE.5:1-10

He.5:1-4

Qualifications for a Priest

He.5:5-10

Jesus Exceeds These Qualifications

— Chosen by God —

- He must be taken from men. “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men” (He.5:1)
- God directly chose His priests. “Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar” (Ex.28:1).
- Angels did not have the nature of men, so they could not be priests.
- At the desecration of the temple, Ezekiel sees men ministering as priests (Ek.8-10). It was blasphemous.

- “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest” (He.5:5). Who chose Jesus to be High Priest? God did. Then Ps.2:7 is quoted, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”. Jesus did not glorify Himself.
- Jesus said, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me” (Jn.8:54).
- The same God that said, “You are my Son” said he is a Priest (Ps.110:4). “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”.

— Sympathetic With Men —

- The true priest had to be sympathetic (He.5:2).
- “Weakness” means to bear gently because you feel it too (He.5:2).
- “He can have compassion” (He.5:2). Compassion has the idea of being in the middle of two extremes. You could be irritated and be apathetic at the same time. Irritated is where the feeling brings grief. And apathetic is where you are indifferent. You feel the ends of his extremes, but you are able to be a rock.

- “In the days of His flesh” (He.5:7) was necessary to sympathize with flesh.
- “With vehement cries and tears” (He.5:7). At the Garden of Gethsemane He began to feel the crush of sin upon Him. He sweat drops of blood.
- The true priest must be sympathetic with men. This takes a further step passed omniscience. Omniscience knows everything. Sympathy feels everything. Christ did not need to learn information. Jesus needed to learn feelings (He.5:8, “He learned obedience by the things which He suffered”). He entered into the world of men.

— Make Sacrifice for Men —

- “sacrifices for sins” (He.5:1) and “sacrifices for sins” (He.5:3)
- The priest was to act on behalf of men to open up the way to God.
- “so also for himself” (He.5:3). The priest had to go through the sacrifice process twice. First for himself since is a sinner. Then for the nation. “But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance” (He.9:7).

- He became the author of eternal salvation. What gave Him that right? His own death.
- The O.T. priests could provide momentary forgiveness. But then everyday they needed another sacrifice. But Jesus by one offering perfected forever all who trust in Him by faith.