**Hebrews 5**

**Main: Take advantage of our High Priest’s help or risk losing the greatest reward**

**1. The requirements for a High Priest – 5:1-4**

* **A man who functions in a sacrificial role before God – 5:1**
* **Have capacity to show compassion to those struggling – 5:2**
* **OT priests had “weaknesses” that Jesus did not; this is better!**
* **Appointed by God – 5:4**

**2. Jesus as the qualified High Priest – 5:5-9**

* **Appointed as High Priest – 5:5-6; Ps. 2 and 110**
* **Perfected by suffering – 5:7-9**
  + **Offered up prayers and supplications (sacrifices 13:15) – 5:7**
  + **“Vehement (passionate, loud) cries and tears”**
  + **Gethsemane and Calvary are in view**
  + **Heard due to “godly fear” – Ps. 22**
  + **Appointed H.P. by God**
  + **Able to sympathize with sufferers (2:18; 4:14-16)**
  + **Learned obedience by suffering; knows how to lead others**
  + **Whatever we need for our salvation, He provides! (4:14-16)**
  + **Thus, He is the “Source” of salvation**
  + **The focus is on His training, not the payment – 5:7-9**
  + **Jesus didn’t need to get ready as a Substitute for sin, but He did need to “learn obedience” to help us through suffering**
  + **5:11-14 involves those who won’t learn from Him**
  + **Salvation is given to those who obey Him (9:28)**
    - **Historical context: OT usage (Ps. 18:3; Lk. 1:67-79)**
    - **Literary context**
      * **Of the book – 1:14; 9:28**
      * **Of the immediate text before and after – chaps. 3 and 6**
    - **Details of the text**
      * **“to all who obey Him”**
      * **In what way was He the “Author”?**
      * **He was “saved” from His suffering and death**
      * **He then leads us through suffering**
      * **5:11-14 – the warning involves immaturity, not et. life**
  + **Obedience has no part in obtaining eternal life (Rom. 4:4-5)**
  + **It is necessary for a victory that is eternal (1:14 – future to us)**
  + **We share in the glory of the Son who is both God and Man (2:6-10)**
* **The priesthood of Jesus is in the order of Melchizedek – 5:11**

**3. Another warning: Missing out on the greatest reward? – 5:11-14**

* **It’s difficult for the writer to talk about this great priesthood**
* **The readers had “become” dull of hearing**
* **They had regressed spiritually (11)**
* **At this point, they should be teaching/discipling other believers (12)**
* **This is a goal for all Christians who are disciples**
* **It’s like they had to “start over” in learning with the basics**
* **They had “come to need” milk, the first things believers should learn**
* **Had become spiritual babies! (13)**
* **“Solid food” = Teaching that builds on the foundation (14)**
* **By “practice” or “reason of use” = “to train or undergo discipline”**
* **“Senses” = “capacity for discernment; faculty”**
* **“Trained” = For the distinguishing of good and evil**
* **If we don’t use what we’re taught, we begin to lose discernment regarding truth! Our capacity to get it right is endangered.**

**Review: Putting it all together**

* **We “hear” Jesus in God’s Word (Heb. 4:12-13)**
* **God’s Word shows us areas of need (4:12-13).**
* **Our High Priest helps us with those needs (4:14-16).**

**Chapter Five**

* **Jesus meets (and exceeds) all the qualifications as High Priest**
* **He is the Son who inherits and the High Priest who enables us to share it.**
* **Through suffering, Jesus:**
  + **learned obedience**
  + **gained His salvation (victory)**
  + **became the Source of obedient believers’ salvation**
* **He both offers co-heirship and He enables those willing to obtain it (Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:25-27)!**
* **There is great danger in not progressing spiritually – 5:11-14**
  + **Growing believers should be teaching others**
  + **They had regressed and were in danger of falling away**
  + **The “falling away” was from the path to maturity**
  + **If they fell away, they would lose co-heirship**
* **It is critical that we take advantage of Jesus’ help and keep growing**

**There is no “Door #3”!**