

The Qualifications of a High Priest

Text: Hebrews 5:1-5

Date: 5-19-24

I. The imperfect qualifications of Aaron's priesthood (Heb. 5:1-4)

- **Man (5:1a)** – Angels could not be priests because they were not, by nature, human beings. But a man could be subject to like passions of humans. He could be tempted, experience suffering, and go through all things that humans go through. Therefore, a man could serve as priest.
- **Appointed by God (5:1b; v. 4)** – Both the office of the priesthood and the high priest were selected on appointment under God's laws.

The Fall brought man out of fellowship with God and that separation proved the need of a sacrifice for sin in order to have acceptance before God. Priests were the only ones able to offer sacrifices on behalf of other people. The issue is they are sinners too. A person must then rely on God's mercy and His choosing of a priest that would be acceptable to offer sacrifices. And in God's mercy He gave the instructions for that in the OT law.

- **Offer gifts and sacrifices for sin (5:1c)**

Thus a priest was a human attending to the things of God.

- **Compassionate (5:2)**

The priest then could completely identify with the person he was representing yet not lose his perspective or understanding of the situation. "It refers to taking the middle course between apathy and anger" (Gaebelein 47). He could help the person but also keep himself in moderation or under control. Thus in compassion the sin could be dealt with.

II. The impeccable qualifications of Jesus Christ (Heb. 5:5-10)

Was Jesus Christ qualified to be our High Priest?

When God sent His Son as human flesh, God became approachable through Him! That is the duty of the High Priest, and Jesus Christ fulfills that duty.

****His humility (Heb. 5:5a)**

****His honor (Heb. 5:5b)**