

Who is Jesus Part 5 “Jesus as priest”
Hebrews 4:16

I. What is a priest?

- Priest- Personnel in charge of sacrifice and offering at worship places, particularly the tabernacle and temple.
- The priest had the following functions in the OT
 - The primary function of the priest involved sacrificing at the altar and worship in the local temple or shrine
 - The priest also served as one who would bless the people. (Numbers 6:22-26)
 - The priest determined the will of God (Exodus 28:30)
 - The priest instructed the people about the law of God (Nehemiah 8:1-8)
 - As we look at the descriptions and offices of the priest as well as the early men who filled these offices we get a very clear picture that the office of priesthood was one of service to the people and mediator between himself and God.

II. Jesus as a priest

- As we think of the role above lets look for a moments at specific ways that Jesus fulfilled the functions of priest.
- Jesus as a priest
 - A priest is one who would pronounce blessings over the people
 - Matthew 5-7 is the longest sermon recorded by Jesus
 - Notice how He starts this message off. It starts with pronouncing blessings over the people!
 - Read Matthew 5:1-12 In these verses Jesus is pronouncing blessings for the believer because of attitudes and lifestyles the believer possesses.
 - Jesus even takes blessing another step further in Matthew 5:43-45. In this verse Jesus says we can receive a blessing by loving our enemies....
 - A priest determined the Will of God
 - Read John 6:38-40
 - What a glorious way to begin our teaching. In those few verses we can know God’s ultimate will
 - Jesus came to do the will of the Father that sent Him, and this is the Father’s will that everyone who sees the Son and believes on Him will have everlasting life, and I (Jesus) will raise him up in the last day!
 - You want to know what the Father’s will is....there it is that all should have everlasting life!
 - You want to know what Jesus will is....it is to do the will of the Father!
 - Jesus proclaimed God’s Will repeatedly throughout His life while on earth!
 - A priest instructed the people about the law of God
 - Read Mark 1:21-22 Jesus simply taught as one with power and authority
 - Matthew 5:21-47 Jesus spoke and gave the law as the ultimate authority of law. He spoke as God in this passage of scripture
 - Mark 12:28-34 Jesus was approached as one having authority and was questioned about which the commandments is the greatest in all the law!
 - The overarching role of a priest was to serve
 - In short the whole life of Jesus was about serving people!
 - In Jesus’ life we see Him perform the following acts of service
 - Jesus was a preacher and teacher
 - Jesus fed the multitudes both physically and spiritually
 - Jesus healed people from physical diseases
 - Jesus took time to listen and speak to people offering them insight
 - Jesus came to the aid and rescue of those who being marginalized by the religious
 - Jesus was poor, homeless, and flat broke in His service to God
 - Jesus was so tired that He could sleep in the back of boat in the middle of a storm that was literally going to kill all those who were onboard.
 - Read John 13:3-17 Jesus commanded us to serve on another.
 - The priest would offer sacrifices on behalf of the people
 - This is the entire concept behind the institution of the Passover in Exodus 12:1-14
 - Jesus ultimately offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice to redeem fallen man to God. Hebrews 9:11-15 and 23-28

III. Jesus came to serve and so must we!

- As a priest Jesus came to serve as demonstrated throughout this message
- Ultimately His service led to Him giving His life
 - Matthew 20:28 “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - Ultimately His ministry continues today at the right hand of the Father. Hebrews 10:10-16
- As we correctly see Jesus as our high priest we understand two things
 - He is the perfect sacrifice for our sins and we must respond to Him for salvation
 - Because He served we must serve!

