

## A PERFECT REPRESENTATIVE

### Hebrews 5:1-10

In this country, our government is called “representative” government. One legislative body is called the “House of Representatives” People sometimes ask: “Once elected, do these “representatives” really represent me? Are they really looking out for *MY* interests?” I’ve written to my representative about issues which concern me. As I write the letter, I think to myself, “He had better represent me! We had better be able to count on him to represent us faithfully!” While we may not always be satisfied with the response to *that* question, we *can* be sure we have a *perfect* representative before *God’s* throne!

There’s One Who represents us perfectly — who looks out for our interests.

Hebrews tells us about our Perfect Representative in **Hebrews 5:1-10**

**Job**, In his affliction, cries out for an arbitrator, a mediator, a go-between to stand in the gap between Him & God. **Job 9:32-35** “*He is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. <sup>33</sup>There is no arbiter between us who might lay his hand on us both... <sup>35</sup> Then I would speak without fear of him*”

God has provided a go-between. **1 Tim 2:5** “*For there is one God, & there is one mediator [=one arbitrator] between God & men, the man Christ Jesus*”

Hebrews affirms the same, we have a High Priest—appointed by God as a mediator—an arbitrator—to intervene in our behalf.

[Develops new idea. First: Jesus is superior to the great leaders of Israel because He's the best revelation of the Father [1-4:13], now he shows that...]

## **JESUS IS THE BEST HIGH PRIEST 4:14-7:28**

4:14-16 he *urges us* to come. Now he tells us why we can come:

5:1-10 explains why we can come confidently to our great High Priest.

**We come to Him confidently,**

**because He, as an ideal High Priest represents us.**

The High Priest had to be human like us

so he could represent us faithfully before God.

***We have a fully qualified High Priest in our Lord Jesus Christ; He is perfect in that capacity."***

This is what Hebrews 5 wants to tell us:

***The fact that He's able to sympathize with us in our griefs, induces US to draw near to Him when WE face suffering!***

One of the greatest changes Jesus made was to eliminate the need for another priest to represent us before God.

Because of Christ, we can come directly to God.

We can speak for ourselves.

We can bring Him our needs, our own sins, our own requests.

Jesus, our representative, hears our petitions, and represents us to God.

[ Last week we observed that . . . ]

## **JESUS UNDERSTANDS OUR WEAKNESS 4:14-16**

He became a man and was tempted in every way as we are.

∴, He's able to help us.

Since we have this kind of High Priest,  
we can approach Him confidently.

## **Jesus is qualified to serve as our High Priest 5:1-10**

*He meets all the prerequisites.*

**Requirements for H.P. 1-4**—prerequisites Aaron had to meet.

### **1. The High Priest must be GENUINELY HUMAN 1-3**

**He must represent men before God 1** *“Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts & sacrifices for sins.”*

Priest was called to minister on behalf of the people before God.

Priest was to concentrate on things related to God,

rather than things of the world.

Other people had to concentrate on worldly things;

they didn't have time to focus on spiritual matters.

The priest was to intervene—as their representative

—especially in presenting offerings and sacrifices for the people.

**He must understand man's weakness—he's one of us 2-3**

*“He can deal gently with the ignorant & wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. <sup>3</sup>Because of this he's obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.”*

Since High Priest represents people before God,

he must be truly human, to be the kind of priest we need.

Hughes: “The solidarity factor was essential to effective priestly ministry... a real man with a real link to God and a real bond to man.”

If he were not human, and didn't experience what we experience, he could not have compassion on the weak.

*“Able to **deal gently**”*—appropriate response when faced with failure.  
Attitude midway between explosive anger & passive indifference  
Attitude which doesn't lead to anger at a fault; nor condone it  
Gentle sympathy which patiently leads us back to the right way.

**2. High Priest must be appointed by God 4** *“No one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.”*

He couldn't choose it himself!

## **PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST 5:5-10**

Aaron & sons had to fulfill the requirements; so did Jesus [He did!]

Since Jesus meets requirements, He's qualified to be our H.P.

**Jesus was appointed by God 5-6** (4) *“So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;<sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”*

Jesus was appointed to a higher priesthood--a better order!

Melchizedek was both king and priest.

Jesus is that kind of priest. Aaron could never do that.

## **Jesus was genuinely human 7-10**

**Jesus identifies with our suffering 7** (2-3) *“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers & supplications, with loud cries & tears, to him who was able to save him from death, & he was heard because of his reverence.”*

He knows what it feels like to cry out to God with deep groanings & tears. He's been there! —a moment of genuine affliction.

**Don't miss agony He went through.** —He knows what it's like!

He cried out to God with loud cries and tears—just like we do!

Yet He remained submissive in the midst of the suffering!

He continued to trust God!

Gethsemane was an awesome experience, even for our Lord.

He was loaded down with the weight of all that lay before Him.

He presented petitions to Him who's able to save Him from death.

Never questions God's **ability** to save Him; His prayer is about *conforming to His Father's will*; it isn't a pleasant outlook.

He endured more than we could ever imagine!

Because of what HE endured, He knows how to help *US* in *OUR* affliction.

Nothing we go through takes Him by surprise.

*He's been through it all!*

Jesus cried out to the One who's able to deliver Him *out of* death. God heard His prayer, because He was "rightly religious."

He called out to God in faith, and He heard Him.

He learned about obedience through suffering.

*He understands struggle persecuted Hebrew believers face!*

***That's sequence WE go through too.***

**Jesus can help US through *our* struggles; He's been there!**

**Jesus learned by experience what obedience costs us**

**8 (2-3)** *"Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered."*

**Doesn't say he learned *to* obey, nor *how to* obey.**

As God, Jesus couldn't disobey.

It would be contrary to His nature to be rebellious or disobedient.

He did have to *experience* obedience.

He learned *by experience* what it's like *for us* to choose to trust God.

He wouldn't understand what it *feels* like for people to trust Him, unless He experienced obedience and paid price Himself.

When we do what we want to do, we don't learn obedience.

(Ice Cream for breakfast!)

**Obedience is learned doing hard things—you might not desire.**

Jesus learned experientially what it *feels like* to obey God in suffering —lesson *they're* struggling with at that moment.

His attitude, even in praying was total submission to the Father.  
Trusting Him for grace to see Him through.

That's what obedience should mean for us also.

*Are we struggling with lesson in obedience God is teaching us?*

*Are we enduring affliction that makes it hard to trust & obey Him?*

**Jesus knows what it feels like.** He's been through it too!

He represents us when we're in that situation.

[ Having completed His work, . . . ]

**Jesus became the source of salvation 9** *"Being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him"*

*Was Jesus ever LESS THAN perfect?*

*"To be made perfect"*—carry out purpose for which it's designed.

What a person is when he becomes all he's created to be,  
end of process.

Jesus' suffering fitted Him as Savior.

We can lay hold of that eternal salvation

He offers it to those who obey Him, by trusting in Him,

To those who stop trying to earn our way, & trust Him.

**Jesus was designated High Priest by God 10** *"Being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek."*

The source of eternal salvation is the eternal High Priest.

He's the One who "ever lives to make intercession" for us.

His priesthood is eternal & His salvation is eternal.

We can count on both.

He who is H.P. forever, brings us salvation that lasts forever.

**Jesus became better High Priest than sons of Levi because He met prerequisites but HAD NO SIN!**

He's the source of our salvation. But *He's more than that!*

He's our High Priest.

He lives to make intercession for us.

He sits at the Father's side to represent us before Him.

He's perfectly qualified for that role; He knows all about it

He *learned it by His own experience.*

**JESUS IS A BETTER HIGH PRIEST THAN LEVI:**

He fulfills all the prerequisites 5-7

He's perfect 9

He's the "Author" of salvation—its cause & source. 9

He's High Priest of a superior order (Melchizedekan) 10

**HOW SHOULD THIS PASSAGE AFFECT OUR LIVES?**

**WE have a great High Priest!**

**God appointed a great H.P. to serve on our behalf!**

He represents us faithfully and looks out for our best interests.

He's our mediator. He intervenes on our behalf.

He understands our weakness. He's been through process

He knows what it's like to go through things we're going through.

**HE'S THE PERFECT ONE TO REPRESENT US! =>**

**"LET'S COME CONFIDENTLY INTO HIS PRESENCE!"**

He knows what it feels like. He's been there.

He sits at Father's right hand to intercede for us.

He urges us to come.

He's a faithful representative for US, when WE face the hard times!

He understands what it's like to deal with human pain & affliction.

***Now He urges US to bring our pain to Him—to come confidently into His presence.***

*We can trust Him to represent us before the Father and provide all we need to handle it!*